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ARAB TIMES

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THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 3-4, 1988

RAJAB 15-16, 1408 AH

20 PAGES 150 FILS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Royal clemency

RABAT, (Reuters): King Hassan has pardoned 995 prisoners in a measure of royal clemency marking the 27th anniversary of his accession to the throne, the Justice Ministry said. The ministry did not identify the beneficiaries.

Ben Ali in Algiers

ALGIERS, (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Algiers yesterday on his first foreign visit since taking power from President Habib Bourguiba nearly four months ago.

Confident

NICOSIA, (Reuters): Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said yesterday he was confident a meeting could be arranged with new Cypriot President George Vassiliou on the 14-year-old division of the island.

Naval exercises

ANKARA, (Reuters): Egypt and Turkey will hold joint naval exercises in international waters of the eastern Mediterranean later this year, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

UN vote

UNITED NATIONS, (UPI): The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly yesterday to take the United States before the World Court in order to stop it from closing down the PLO mission in New York.

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Helsinki	4.9
Tallinn	5.0
Riga	5.1
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Kiev	5.3
Moscow	5.4
Novosibirsk	5.5
Yekaterinburg	5.6
Omsk	5.7
Krasnoyarsk	5.8
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Barrow	6.8
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Barter	7.0
Etah	7.1
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Upernivik	7.3
Ilulissat	7.4
Ilulissat	7.5
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Ilulissat	9.0

افغانستان
پاکستان نے موقف نرم کر دیا
ایران عراق کے درمیان
جنگ جاری ہے
شمالی مشرق وسطیٰ واپس
جائے کی ہدایت
بھارت کی افغانستان میں
دبھی کیوں؟ شرف شاہ کا تجزیہ
یو سنیاٹ
کویت کی
تقریبات
کیل
قلم اور
طلبہ کے صفے

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with moderate southeasterly wind may freshen at times and a chance for rain later in the day.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 11:00 am, 12:00 am
Low water: 6:00 am, 6:30 pm
Sunrise: 6:12 am
Sunset: 5:49 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmed: 24°C 75°F
Falka: 22°C 72°F
Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmed: 15°C 59°F
Falka: 14°C 57°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 76 per cent
Ahmed: 80 per cent
Falka: 70 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 85 per cent
Ahmed: 89 per cent
Falka: 90 per cent

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Baghdad, Tehran and Qom hit Tit-for-tat missile attacks continue

NICOSIA, March 2, (Reuters): Iraq raised the stakes in the Gulf war today, sending missiles smashing into the Iranian holy city of Qom, while Iran retaliated with rocket strikes on Baghdad.
An Iraqi military spokesman said two rockets hit Qom at around midday, prayer time of a major Shi'ite Muslim religious festival when many pious Iranians normally flock to the city. Iraq also fired two missiles into Tehran, raising the number it has launched at the Iranian capital in three days to 21.
Iran says Iraqi air and rocket attacks which started last Saturday with an air raid on Tehran have killed at least 60 people and injured over 100. But it said there were no casualties in the attack on Qom.

Precise
Iraq has reported several people killed or wounded in its two night Iranian missile strikes on Baghdad. Military spokesmen have given no precise figures.
Iraq says Iran's leaders can end the carnage by accepting a UN-ordered ceasefire but it vowed if necessary to raze Tehran. "We will continue to pound their nests and punish them," a spokesman said.
Iran says Iraq must first be labelled the aggressor in the 7-1/2-year-old war before it will accept peace.
Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, told a Tehran meeting with relatives of war victims that the Iraqi missile attacks only strengthened the will of Iranians.
"A mistake the Westerners

Freed UN men leave Beirut

BEIRUT, March 2, (Reuters): Two Scandinavian UN aid workers, freed by their kidnappers after 26 days in captivity, left for home today saying they had been treated well.
Swede Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57, flew to Cyprus where they picked up a Swissair flight for Zurich.
Before leaving, they told a news conference in East Beirut their kidnappers had moved them eight times, usually at night and in a car boot.
The two, who worked for the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), were seized near the southern port of Sidon on Feb 5 and released in West Beirut last night, near the Summerland Hotel.
Stening said they were driven to Beirut by the kidnappers. "We were interrogated in a polite manner. They asked us where we had served, in which country and what kind of job we had."
"We were blindfolded only in

Intervene to stop Gulf war, Amir urges UN

KUWAIT, the current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), urged the United Nations Security Council yesterday to intervene to stop the Iran-Iraq war.
HH the Amir, sent messages to leaders of the Security Council's 15 member states in his capacity as OIC chairman.
"I urge the Security Council and especially its permanent members to remember that every day they delay effective intervention to stop this war results in more innocent casualties on both warring sides," he said.
Regret
The Amir hailed the good offices of the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and hoped that the messages will be an added impetus for them to move swiftly to bring about peace in the Gulf region.
The Amir also called on the

Security Council to play a "major role" in the current escalation of the "war of cities."
Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday expressed deep regret at the dangerous escalation of the war.
Sheikh Sabah said: "We deeply regret that things have reached such dangerous proportions."
Sheikh Sabah attributed this escalation in the war to the delay in implementing the Security Council resolution 598.
He said had this resolution been implemented soon after it was adopted, the countries of the region would have been enjoying peace at present and the blood of thousands of Muslims would have been saved.
Sheikh Sabah called on the permanent member states of the Security Council to speed up efforts to implement the resolution.



HH the Amir

18,262 accidents last year

ACCORDING to statistics compiled for 1987, a total of 564,410 cars are driven in Kuwait by 672,235 drivers.
There was one road accident for every 31 vehicles and 15 deaths per 100,000 persons last year.
A total of 18,262 road accidents were reported in Kuwait last year, with damage totalling KD100 million.
The Director of Planning at the General Traffic Department, Lt Col Nabil Shuhaiber, said that the number of deaths caused by road accidents increased in 1987 compared to 1986 because of the number of pedestrian accidents. He said that 6.3 per cent of the total number of accidents involved pedestrians.

Resulting
Shuhaiber said that 4,812 accidents were reported in the Capital Governorate in 1987, resulting in 40 deaths. In the Hawalli Governorate 8,426 accidents were reported with 107 deaths; 1,932 in the Jahra Governorate with 64 deaths and 3,092 accidents in the Ahmadi Governorate.
The General Traffic Department collected KD4,395,662 in fines, fees for licences and licence plates last year and KD1,713,995 for 92,836 traffic violations that were not referred to traffic courts.
He said that traffic accidents involving collisions between vehicles, had decreased from previous years, which he attributed to better traffic control and increased traffic safety awareness.

Sikh militants kill nine in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India, March 2, (Reuters): Sikh extremists killed at least nine people in the north Indian state of Punjab today but one of their leaders was killed by security forces, police said.
Security forces ambushed and killed Gurcharan Singh, a senior member of the separatist guerrilla Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) today in Amritsar, where the Sikhs' holiest shrine is located, police said today.
Sikh extremists shot and killed a Hindu shopkeeper, his two sons and Dashminda Singh, a 70-year-old Communist Party activist, last night in the Amritsar district bordering Pakistan. A second Communist Party member was also killed.
In neighbouring Gurdaspur district, extremists shot dead Hindu man and his son. They also killed a Sikh.
In Jullundur, suspected extremists knifed to death a man sleeping at his sawmill.

Washed ashore
TYRE, Lebanon, March 2, (Reuters): The corpse of a Palestinian commando killed by an Israeli gunboat off the Lebanese coast has washed ashore near the southern port of Tyre, security sources said today.



Anti-government protesters breaking a rickshaw during the general strike called by opposition parties in Dhaka. (Reuters wire-photo)

Day of bombs in Dhaka

Rivals clash on the eve of polls

DHAKA, March 2, (Agencies): Government and opposition supporters clashed with homemade bombs in Bangladesh today during a general strike aimed at disrupting parliamentary elections.
Groups of up to 100 men fought with political rivals in the shuttered bazaars of the capital Dhaka which was shaken all day by hundreds of bomb blasts.
Shops and offices closed, and rickshaws defying the strike were beaten and their cycle-rickshaws burned.
A coalition of 21 opposition parties, which is boycotting tomorrow's election, called the 36-hour stoppage to prevent people voting.
Farce
They want the resignation of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and have called the election a farce.
Ershad, a former Army general who toppled a civilian government in a bloodless 1982 coup, has repeatedly refused to step down since the opposition campaign against him began last November.
Opposition members and supporters of Ershad's Jatiya Party fought brief street battles in Dhaka and five other towns.
Hospital doctors said several people were injured. One man had his hand blown off. Police said 18 people were injured.
Officials say some 300,000 security personnel — including 9,000 soldiers — have been

Reagan concerned over uprising Shultz returning to Middle East

BRUSSELS, March 2, (Reuters): President Reagan directed US Secretary of State George Shultz today to return to the Middle East for another attempt at bridging Arab-Israeli differences on a peace settlement.
"I have directed Secretary of State Shultz to return to the Middle East tomorrow," Reagan told reporters in Brussels where he and Shultz were attending a Nato summit.
The decision underscored the Reagan administration's concern to find a way of ending widespread violence in Israeli-occupied territories since December that has left at least 79 Palestinians dead.

Results
Reagan announced his decision after he and Shultz discussed the results of a six-day swing through Israel and Arab countries which the Secretary of State completed yesterday.
Secretary Shultz briefed me fully on his negotiating efforts and it is clear all countries in the region believe it is useful for the United States to remain engaged in this process," Reagan said.
"We will spare no effort in our search for a comprehensive peace settlement," he said.
Asked by reporters what Shultz could accomplish by returning to the Middle East, Reagan replied: "He came back here temporarily to participate in what was going on here today. Now he's going back."
US officials said Shultz would visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan on Friday and Saturday before returning to Washington.
Shultz has acknowledged that his mission is plagued with difficulties, but has said he detects a degree of flexibility in the position of Middle Eastern countries that was not present before.

Obstacles
Shultz encountered formidable obstacles on his trip, including a split in Israel's coalition government between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over whether to give up occupied land for a lasting peace.
In Tel Aviv a Shamir aide said the Israeli Prime Minister was willing to meet King Hussein of Jordan for direct talks under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union.
Israel's armed forces radio said Shultz would meet Shamir and Peres on Friday morning, make brief trips to Cairo and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, before returning to Washington.
Jordan renewed demands for a full-fledged UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East, while the United States and Israel have sought at most a brief international meeting to open direct Arab-Israeli talks.
In a move which some Israeli officials interpreted as a step backwards, the Jordanians also called for the PLO to have its own seat at a peace conference rather than being a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

131 killed, says PLO

UNITED NATIONS, March 2, (UPI): The PLO today published a list of 131 Palestinians it said were killed by the Israelis in the occupied territories, ranging from a 15-day-old baby boy to a 100-year-old woman.
The PLO observer, Ambassador Zehdi Labib Terzi, said the Israeli government has stepped up its "stranglehold" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since violent demonstrations began last Dec 9 and "there has been an upsurge in atrocities by its soldiers and Zionist settlers."
"Palestinians of all ages, including toddlers, have been shot with live ammunition as well as with lethal rubber bullets," Terzi said in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.
"Some have been clubbed to death, others have had their bones broken in a vengeful manner," he said. "Palestinians choked to death on tear-gas or died as a result of respiratory failure, and pregnant women have aborted."
Terzi said international condemnation of the killings is not sufficient because the Palestinians in the occupied territories are "struggling for a more concrete response, namely, the immediate end of the occupation of their land by Israel."

Pakistan softens stand as Afghan talks start

GENEVA, March 2, (Agencies): Pakistan today backed off from its demand for a transitional government in Afghanistan to oversee a withdrawal of Soviet troops, as UN-sponsored peace talks opened in Geneva.
Pakistan has in the past said it would not sign an agreement with the present Afghan government but only with a new "legitimate" government.
But as Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani sat down to begin talks with UN mediator Diego Cordovez, he told reporters: "We will cross that bridge when we come to it."
Earlier Cordovez rejected any last-minute discussion of a transitional government in Kabul as part of the almost completed settlement.
"That is something which pertains to the Afghans and the Afghans alone," Cordovez told a news conference.
"Absolutely not," Cordovez snapped when asked if that could be discussed at the "proximity" or indirect talks with the two sides.
Cordovez said he was optimistic about the success of the talks, aimed at securing the withdrawal of about 115,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan.
He played down past Pakistani statements about the need for a new transitional government and referred reporters to a statement Noorani made on his arrival in Geneva.
Asked at Geneva airport if his government would still insist on an interim administration before it would sign a peace agreement, Noorani said: "Pakistan will make up its mind after consultations."
He said he would return to Islamabad on Friday and then fly back to Geneva on Sunday.
Cordovez said he had already met senior US and Soviet officials in Geneva prior to the opening of the talks.
Afghan rebels denounced UN sponsored peace talks as unacceptable today and vowed to continue fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.
"Geneva remains unacceptable because no authentic representative of the Afghan people is participating," Mohammad Younis Khalis, chief of the main rebel alliance said in a statement in Islamabad.

ARAB TIMES
Grand Bingo
THE Four Corners prize has been won by Miss Zarifa A. Ghadiali. She will receive KD 25. Game No. 63 continues for three Full House prizes.



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Reagan at the start of the NATO summit in Brussels. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv orders probe into Zail Singh's charge

NEW DELHI, March 2, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered an inquiry today into a charge that opponents offered millions of dollars to former President Zail Singh to seek a second term.

Singh, who clashed with Rajiv over his constitutional powers before stepping down last July, said in a magazine interview dissidents in Rajiv's Congress (I) Party and opposition supporters offered him up to \$30 million to seek re-election.

Corruption

Rajiv told Parliament that he had ordered the Home Ministry "to find out how that money was to be used because there is no campaign in the presidential election as such."

The President, who occupies a largely ceremonial post, is elected for five years by a college of state assembly and national parliament members.

Singh told Sunday magazine he was seriously considering dismissing Rajiv last year when the government was shaken by allegations of corruption in two arms deals.

Rajiv's popularity plunged and the Congress Party was split by dissidents who have since been expelled. Singh did not name the dissidents.

His allegation has re-opened the debate about presidential powers and the arms deal scandals.

Intervening during Rajiv's statement, Lower House Speaker Balram Jakhar said: "This is a serious matter to the security of the country. We must do something to find out the truth."

Mann said that in meetings with Chinese health officials, he "made it clear" their current stress on keeping AIDS out of the

country — as a foreigner disease — has failed elsewhere.

"This effort to stop AIDS at the border will not be very effective," he said. "No society is immune to this virus."

In New York, a medical team has proposed that all newborn infants could be tested anonymously for the AIDS virus as a means of charting the spread of the killer disease in the United States.

The doctors from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health said such testing is essential for the United States to gauge what health resources will be needed to care for those who contract the disease.

The group, headed by Dr Rodney Hoff, said in a study in the March 3 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine that current ways of estimating the number of people infected with the AIDS virus are inadequate.

These include studying the spread of the disease in the two high-risk groups — homosexual men and intravenous drug users — and collecting data from screening blood donors and military personnel.

Meanwhile, the US government said yesterday that it intended to grant exclusive marketing rights for a promising new AIDS drug to Bristol-Myers Co.

BRUSSELS, March 2, (UPI): NATO Secretary-General Lord Peter Carrington formally opened the NATO Summit today with unequivocal praise for the new superpower arms treaty but he warned that a treaty and "one new Soviet leader" do not remove the military capability of the Soviet Union.

The 16 NATO leaders later went into private session where President Reagan was to reassure the allies that the United States will remain committed to the common defence of Europe despite its nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviets.

Carrington, who opened the summit, called the INF treaty eliminating ground-based medium- and shorter-range

nuclear missiles "one milestone that has been reached" in superpower relations.

But he said, "one agreement which reduces some weapons, and, indeed, one new Soviet leader who is ready to reduce some tensions, however significant, do not in themselves remove the military capability and potential of the Soviet Union."

"NATO governments embarked many years ago on the search for better security at a lower level of forces but it is only a first milestone that has been reached," Carrington said.

Carrington said the meeting was "to chart the way ahead" for the allies.

Earlier Carrington greeted President Reagan as he arrived at NATO headquarters amid heavy security, his black limousine being escorted by a dozen police motorcycles and a police helicopter overhead. Carrington greeted Reagan as he stepped out of the car and escorted him to the main entrance.

Journalists shouted questions at Reagan, asking him if he would send Secretary of State George Shultz back to the Middle East following the NATO summit for further consultations on a US peace initiative.

"We'll have a word about that later," the President said as he paused briefly to have his photograph taken with Carrington. The NATO head then escorted

Reagan to the main meeting room for the meeting.

"I am sure we all wish President Reagan and his negotiators well in their effort to secure an agreement on strategic arms reductions, which have the alliance's full support," Carrington said. "Beyond that agreement we all look forward to a more serious engagement with the Warsaw Pact on the central problems of European security arising from the imbalances we face in field of conventional forces and chemical weapons."

"In short, the INF milestone is the early stage of a long road," he said. "We must agree that alliance has made a strong beginning."

Carrington said that on

previous occasions — the last time the NATO heads met was six years ago — NATO conferences were called because of a crisis but said this time there was unity and solidarity.

After the formal remarks by Carrington, the heads of state gathered for what the NATO leader called "family portrait session" and what the White House has described in its news releases as a "class photo."

Following the photo session, the leaders gathered for the closed meeting.

High on the agenda for the talks were the issues of achieving a conventional arms balance between NATO and Warsaw Pact nations in Europe and placing a ban on chemical weapons.

KAMPALA, March 2, (UPI): A cabinet minister was shot and injured by gunmen who stole his Land Rover car in a Kampala suburb, police said today.

They said Industry Minister Aggrey Suti was ambushed in the car in the Tank Hill area of the capital yesterday as he drove home to lunch.

Suti, injured in the leg, was admitted to a nearby mission hospital and was said by a spokesman to be in stable condition.

Italians return

BERGAMO, Italy, March 2, (Reuters): Three Italian engineers held in Iraq for five months by Kurdish guerrillas returned home yesterday but it was still unclear if Italy had agreed to any conditions in exchange for their release.

The three, Sergio Cominetti, Giuseppe Carrara and Roberto Diotallevi, were kidnapped last autumn while working on electrical engineering projects in northern Iraq.

Plane crash

MOSCOW, March 2, (Reuters): Twenty people died when a Soviet passenger plane crashed in the west Siberian oil city of Surgut, the weekly Moscow News reported today.

Thirteen people are still in critical condition after Saturday's crash, it said, quoting the chief doctor of a hospital in the regional capital, Tyumen.

President Suharto

JAKARTA, March 2, (UPI): President Suharto said today, prior to an election he cannot lose, that he is ready for another five-year term and will accept the nomination.

Freed UN

men leave Beirut

(Continued from Page 1)

agency which they wanted settled," one source said. He added that the kidnapping was carried out by the gunmen without the knowledge of the Palestinian factions.

Moved

The two hostages were then handed to Arafat's people who kept them as talks went on how the release should take place without any embarrassment to the Palestinian groups," he said.

The two were moved to several locations in the Ain Al Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh refugee camps and were held in Sidon for the last three days, he said.

Security sources in Sidon last month told Reuters the two were held by a former Arafat official, who was suspected last August for killing another Patah official.

"We don't know where we were held at any time. This kidnapping was very professional and efficient. We did not, during the whole period see any faces. We were always transported in the trunk of a car," Stening said.

Both said they were ready to return to work in Lebanon.

Stening said he was held with Joergensen "and that was a great comfort for both of us. We were never maltreated."

"The men we saw were masked and I cannot tell the number. The actual kidnapping was carried out by four men," he added.

Germans

A group holding two West Germans captive in Lebanon said today that one of them, Ralph Schray, could be freed within hours.

The "Freedom Strugglers" said mediation by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had led to commitments and guarantees which could resolve Schray's case "within the coming hours if the demands are met."

Its typewritten statement was delivered to the An Nahar newspaper and an international news agency in Beirut with a coloured photograph of Schray.

US committed to the common defence of Europe

Nato leaders open summit with praise for arms treaty

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China appears to be free from AIDS

BEIJING, March 2, (Agencies): The director of the World Health Organisation's AIDS programme said today that China appears largely free from the disease, but criticised its current official emphasis on trying to "stop AIDS at the border."

Dr Jonathan Mann, on his first visit to China, also said WHO had agreed to contribute several hundred thousand dollars in assistance to China's AIDS efforts in exchange for Chinese acceptance of its prevention and treatment guidelines.

Mann, at a news conference on the third day of his five-day visit, said he accepted as reliable Chinese government studies showing acquired immune deficiency syndrome remains "very rare" among the country's 1.02 billion people.

China, which has blood-tested 20,000 people nationwide, has reported no full-blown AIDS cases and 13 people, nine of them foreign visitors or residents, infected with the AIDS virus.

Effort

However, he warned, keeping the disease from becoming a major public health risk "will not happen by itself — it will require sustained effort by the Chinese authorities."

Mann said that in meetings with Chinese health officials, he "made it clear" their current stress on keeping AIDS out of the

country — as a foreigner disease — has failed elsewhere.

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Essential

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Meanwhile, the US government said yesterday that it intended to grant exclusive marketing rights for a promising new AIDS drug to Bristol-Myers Co.

Several killed in Soviet ethnic riots

MOSCOW, March 2, (Reuters): Several people were killed on Sunday in ethnic riots between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the city of Sumgait, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Gennady Gerasimov said he did not know the exact death toll, or the nationalities of those killed. He said people had also been injured.

"There were several victims. Not many, but several," he told Reuters.

He said a criminal investigation was under way.

Sumgait, the Azerbaijani republic's second city, is at the centre of the latest outbreak of Soviet ethnic unrest.

Enforced

Gerasimov said an exact death toll should be available at a later date, adding: "I hope they will find those responsible and bring them to justice."

Troops and armoured cars enforced a curfew in Sumgait during the nights of Monday and Tuesday after the rioting.

Gerasimov said the city was quiet today but he did not know when the curfew would be lifted.

A Moscow dissident, Sergei Grigoryants, said earlier that 17 people had been killed and 70 injured in the Sumgait disturbances. There was no independent confirmation of those figures.

Grigoryants, who is of Armenian origin, was quoted what he said were reports from Armenian families related to the victims in Sumgait.

Police in Sumgait, a Caspian Sea industrial centre just north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, also said the city was now calm.

In Baku, residents said the government was assisting Soviet Azerbaijani refugees who had fled their homes in Armenia during ethnic unrest in the Transcaucasian region.

An employee of Baku Radio, reached by telephone from Moscow, said aid was being given to Azerbaijani refugees who fled their homes in Armenia because

of the unrest over demands for the redrawing of regional boundaries.

Baku Radio reported yesterday that a commission had been established to help the refugees go back to their homes in Armenia.

Fled

The radio said it was unknown how many Azerbaijanis had fled Armenia. Some 160,800 Azerbaijanis live in Armenia, a republic of 3.1 million.

About 475,500 Armenians live in Azerbaijan, where the total population is 6.3 million. There were no reports that any of them had gone to Armenia because of the disturbances.

The unrest erupted in the Transcaucasian republics last month after the local assembly in a predominantly Armenian region of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, voted to seek reunification with Armenia.

Two people in Azerbaijan died in disturbances in a mountainous district close to Nagorno-Karabakh.

No violence has been reported in Armenia. But hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated last week in the capital, Yerevan, for the return to Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Engaged

"But before they could be engaged, the Libyan pilots radioed that they came to Egypt to seek security and the right of political asylum," the newspaper said. "The four Libyan planes then were given permission to land under the watchful eyes of the Egyptian jets."

The newspaper said the crews of the four MiGs were later brought to Cairo for questioning. The mass defection was believed to be the largest ever involving Libyan personnel. It was the fourth time in just over a year that Libyan aircraft had sought refuge in Egypt, but the first time that four warplanes landed at the same time. The last three incidents resulted in political asylum for eight Libyans.

Last July 16, three Libyan military personnel flew a Soviet-built Mi-8 helicopter to Egypt and all three requested asylum which was granted.

Blacklist

WASHINGTON, March 2, (Reuters): President Reagan has put Panama on a blacklist of drug-trafficking nations but decided to "wait and see" before imposing any new sanctions against it.

In a formal notice to Congress yesterday Reagan classified Panama as one of the least helpful nations in the fight against drug trafficking — along with Afghanistan, Iran and Syria.

Libyan pilots may get asylum in Egypt

CAIRO, March 2, (UPI): A squadron of Egyptian jetfighters intercepted four Libyan MiG 23s over Egypt's western desert yesterday but allowed them to land at a desert airstrip after learning the Libyan pilots sought political asylum, a press report said today.

President Hosni Mubarak, indicating the Libyans' request for asylum probably would be met, told reporters: "The country (Egypt) is their country and the matter is under study."

The afternoon newspaper Al Massa said Egyptian radars along the western border with Libya picked up the Libyan warplanes on their screens when they entered Egyptian airspace.

"Suddenly they swooped down to a low altitude and a squadron of Egyptian jetfighters scrambled immediately to confront them," the newspaper said.

Engaged

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Kuwait-Soviet relations hailed

Moscow may play more effective role to end Gulf war, hopes Barges

MOSCOW, March 2. (Kuna): Kuna's chairman and director general Barges Hmoud Al Barges hailed Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, saying Kuwaiti leaders highly value Moscow's support for key Arab issues.

But Barges, in an interview broadcast by Moscow Television recently, indicated that the Soviets can and are hoped to play a more effective role in helping bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

Barges was referring to Moscow's hesitation to approve prompt implementation of Security Council resolution 598 which ordered an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war and withdrawal of troops of both

belligerents to the internationally recognised borders.

The Security Council permanent members are working on a draft resolution which would impose an arms embargo on Iran for its recalcitrant attitude toward resolution 598.

Foot-dragging.

In the meantime, American and Western officials say the Soviet Union appear less than fully supportive of the trend as Moscow argues that political and diplomatic means should be first exhausted before an arms embargo was to be clamped on Iran.

The chairman of the Kuwait News Agency, criticising Moscow's "foot-dragging" about

penalties against Iran, said the Soviet Union can effectively employ its good ties with Iraq and Iran so as to bring their destructive war to a halt.

Fleets

Barges also requested the Soviet Union to put pressures on third-party recipients of Soviet weaponry, as not to let those arms leak to Iran where they would be used for prolonging the war with Iraq.

Queried on the presence of foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf, Barges told the Soviet Television the phenomenon was in no way peculiar to the Gulf, as such fleets exist in international waters all over the world. He further noted that the Soviet fleet

was in the Gulf too.

Barges, however, questioned who created such circumstances that made it imperative for the foreign fleets to ply the Arabian Gulf.

On a Soviet proposal that a UN naval force undertake to protect commercial shipping in the Gulf, the Kuna chairman said Kuwait supports peace but cannot dictate to the Soviet Union and the United States on what they should or should not do.

All that Kuwait wants, Barges added, is to see security and peace prevail in the region and the world. For its part, Kuwait has always carried out its full commitments for the

achievement of that end, he said.

As a superpower, the Soviet Union has certain obligations to meet for the cause of peace and security not only in the Gulf but also in occupied Palestine where women, children and elderly people are being slaughtered daily by the occupation forces, "which receive the backing from countries known for their stances at the Security Council," he said.

Barges called on the Soviet Union to dispatch a fully equipped medical team to Palestinian territories occupied by Israel to alleviate the sufferings of Palestinians who are being savagely repressed since they revolted against their occupiers early in December.

New chemical may increase yield

DR RIDDA Azzam, an Egyptian scientist, speaking at the Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society meeting, on Tuesday said that a new chemical compound, which is able to enhance agricultural productivity in sandy soil, could possibly bring in a new era in the field of agriculture.

Dr Azzam said the compound increased soil productivity and fertility and acted against plant microbes, which doubled the yield. Lab experiments have shown that the substance improves soil productivity by slowly fertilising the soil and increasing the plant's resistance to arid conditions.

General Crest ends UAE visit

ABU DHABI, March 2. (Kuna): The Commander of the US Central Command, General George Crest left here today at the end of his short official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

General Crest was seen off by the Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces Major General Mohammed Saeed Al Badi and other ranking officers as well as the US ambassador to the UAE.

Osaimi, Howell discuss outcome of Shultz tour

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi conferred with the American Ambassador Nathaniel Howell yesterday on recent political developments in the Middle East.

The minister told Kuna after the meeting he and the US ambassador discussed this week's Middle East tour of American Secretary of State George Shultz and the Palestinian revolt against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Washington's decision to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organisation's UN office in New York was also discussed in the meeting, Osaimi said.

The minister said he reiterated Kuwait's conviction that the American move was in violation of the UN headquarters agreement.

He said he and the American ambassador also discussed the forthcoming tour of the Gulf region by UN Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost.

Osaimi also met Assistant GCC Secretary-General for

Political Affairs Sief Bin Hashel Al Maskari.

Talks centred on GCC affairs and activities of the council's general secretariat.

Maskari was later the guest of honour at a lunch banquet hosted by Osaimi. Attending were acting Foreign Undersecretary Faisal Alsaleh Al Mutawa and senior ministry officials.

Seminar on health awareness

RIYADH, March 2. (Kuna): A seminar on spreading health awareness in the Arab Gulf states is due to be held in Abu Dhabi on March 8 to 10.

Secretary-General of the Arab Gulf states Health Ministers Council Dr Jalal Ashi said in a press statement released here today that the seminar will be held according to a decision by the 24th Arab Gulf Health Ministers Conference lately held here.

The seminar's agenda includes a number of issues such as ways of protecting children and pregnant women from diseases and cooperating with the Gulf media to spread health awareness among the citizens.



● The Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, yesterday met a group of students of Sabriya Intermediate Girls School who came to congratulate him on the 27th anniversary of National Day. They presented him with a bouquet. Picture shows Sheikh Ali with the delegation.

Cultural meeting

THE International Fund for promoting culture will hold here a meeting next March 6-8 with participation of a number of international scholars, writers or artists in response to an invitation from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters.

The fund's board of directors comprises 15 members appointed by UNESCO's Director-General according to certain qualifications.

The fund, an affiliate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, aims to increase cultural cooperation at the international level as well as to promote artistic creativity in addition to financing establishment of cultural institutions and activities.

The international fund's resources are mainly voluntary contributions by governments, development organisations, legal institutions and societies and individuals.

The donations received by the fund till April 1987 totalled \$8.5 million. The fund contributed in 224 projects in 81 states.

Role of private education sector lauded

THE assistant undersecretary for private education affairs at Kuwait's Educational Ministry, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrar, said the private sector was playing an important role in the country's development.

He told the Seyassah newspaper that the private education sector was growing swiftly and extending an educational service to different communities living in Kuwait.

Austrian medical team to visit Kuwait

VIENNA, March 2. (Kuna): The medical head of the Viennese clinic, most often frequented by patients from the Arab nation, will lead a delegation of five eminent medical specialists to visit Kuwaiti hospitals from March 21 to 23 at an invitation by the Kuwaiti minister of health.

Head physician of the Vienna 'Rudolfiner Haus' Doctor Osama Hamid, an internal-medicine specialist, is to lecture on 'balneology supporting clinical medicine.' Professor Dr Hanno Millesi, a plastic-surgery expert, will talk about progress in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Professor Dr Klaus Ehrenberger, specialising in ENT (ear-nose-throat) is to lecture on 'functional surgery in ENT, including laser surgery,' while urologist Dr Maximilian Nachtigall is to present a paper on 'erectile impotence.' Assistant professor Dr Lothar Wicke, who specialises in diagnostic imaging, chose 'magnetic resonance in diagnosis'

imaging' for his lecture subject.

The visit to Kuwait is being organised in cooperation with Austrian Airlines and the Austrian National Tourist Office. The visit of the Austrian medical professors is conceived so as to ameliorate the relations with Kuwaiti doctors, Dr Hamid told Kuna here.

Saudi Arabia largest market for Dhaka manpower

DHAKA, March 2. (Kuna): About one hundred thousand of Bangladeshis may get jobs in Saudi Arabia this year, a local newspaper reported here.

The daily New Nation reported yesterday that about 70,000 Bangladeshis got jobs in Saudi Arabia last year, according to unofficial estimate, and the number may rise to one hundred thousand this year.

The newspaper said that Bangladesh received 33 per cent of her total foreign exchange through export of manpower to Saudi Arabia, the biggest market for Bangladeshi manpower, during the past six years.

Bangladesh government, at the insistence of the Saudi authorities, has decided to recruit all Bangladeshis seeking jobs in the kingdom to avoid forgery and malpractices by private recruiting agencies.

From now on all those seeking jobs in Saudi Arabia will be recruited by the Bureau of Manpower and Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited, a public limited company.

Besides, all those recruited will need clearance from the Home Ministry before getting passport and visa from the Saudi Embassy.

Saudi Arabia has reportedly objected to recruitment for jobs in the kingdom by private recruiting agencies following detention of people trying to get into the country with forged papers.

Glass bank project under study

KUWAIT has recently realised the importance of recycling refuse and a factory has been established to recycle used engine oil. Such measures protect against environmental pollution throughout the world.

A feasibility study is being conducted regarding the establishment of a national glass bank project, which would recycle used glass. The project would be implemented by the Gulf Glass Manufacturing Company with the objective of protecting the environment from consumer waste.

According to statistics, 60 per cent of consumer refuse in Switzerland is recycled by a number of industries. Scrap metal, plastic and a number of other items are recycled and resold as new products.

Kuwaiti officials are concerned about the thousands of tons of trash that are burned in Kuwait, which could be converted to useful matter in industries.

Chemical Data Centre opens

KUWAIT'S Chemical Data Centre was opened on Monday by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah. The centre is affiliated with the Kuwait Chemical Society, which is a member of the Asian Chemistry Societies Union and the International Union for Chemistry and Applied Chemistry.

The society's chairman Dr Mubarak Al Obaidi, speaking at the opening, said they had made significant progress in the field of science since their organisation was founded.


The ceremony was attended by the Education Minister and Acting Higher Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri, the Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah, the Undersecretary of the Information Ministry Abdul Aziz Jaafar, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Issa Yaseen, a number of Arab ambassadors and members of the chemical society.

Muslims urged to support uprising

THE International Islamic Charity Association has urged the world to support the "Palestinian popular revolution" in the occupied lands.

In a statement distributed here yesterday, the association urged Muslims of the world to support their Palestinian brothers in defending themselves and achieving their rights.

"The Jews are receiving billions of dollars and unlimited support from various parties, while our Palestinian brothers in the occupied lands are lacking support and suffering from torture," the Kuwait-based association added.




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Shaheen leaves for Bangkok

KUALA LUMPUR, March 2, (Kuna): Kuwait's Foreign Under Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen left for Bangkok today evening after a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

At the Kuala Lumpur international airport in Subang, to send him off were several Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials and the Kuwaiti Amb-

sador to Malaysia Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa. Shaheen's visit to Malaysia is part of his tour of Asian countries, including Thailand, Bangladesh and India.

During his stay in Malaysia, Shaheen met the Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar and handed over a letter of goodwill and friendship from the Kuwaiti

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

He also officially declared open the US \$2.5 million Kuwait Embassy complex in the Malaysian city. Shaheen is being accompanied by two officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Adel Abdul Rasoul and Fawaz Saud Al Sabah.

Kuwait ready to attend any Arab meet

KUWAIT stated yesterday its total readiness to attend any Arab gathering that enhances the pan-Arab interests, strengthens Arab solidarity and consolidates national unity.

Acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah told reporters that Kuwait, headed by HH the Amir, will not hesitate about taking part in any Arab meeting that cements Arab solidarity and unity and furthers Arab interests.

Sheikh Sabah was commenting on the recent proposals of the Algerian president for holding an extraordinary Arab summit to examine the situation in the

occupied Arab lands and the popular uprising of the Palestinian people.

"Kuwait will respond positively if it was officially invited to attend the summit," the top Kuwaiti official stressed.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah received Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister, Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar, State Minister for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Al Rifai and Justice Minister Dhari Al Othman.

Later Sheikh Sabah received members of the Municipal Affairs Committee Abbas Al Khodhari and Abdul Rahman Al Assouli.



Children taking part in National Day celebrations in Salmiyah.

Books and toys exhibition opens

By Lima Al Khalafawi

AN exhibition of children's books and toys opened at the Mishref Fairgrounds yesterday with 38 local companies participating. About 11,000 books were on display in addition to computer equipment and software.

There were two special attrac-

tions at this year's exhibition. One was a road safety exhibit sponsored by Kuwait's General Traffic Department with displays of road signs and safety instructions for children.

Another special feature of the exhibition was an area where children were allowed to sit and paint, colour or draw.

Computer equipment on display included Arabic and English keyboards and programmes with colour monitors and printers. Computer games and educational programmes were popular items, drawing large crowds.

The exhibition was opened yesterday by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, and is sponsored by the National Council for Arts, Culture and Letters.

Books and toys are on sale at competitive prices at the exhibition which will continue until March 11 from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 9 pm.

Ideal Governorate Week

HAWALLI opened its Ideal Governorate Week on Tuesday as part of their National Day activities. The week will feature several exhibitions related to environmental protection, student programmes and a number of seminars at schools and diwanis.

Colonel Al Shamlan from the Hawalli Governorate who represented the Hawalli governor, said he hoped that focusing on environmental issues contributed toward protecting the environment. The Assistant Undersecretary of Medical Stores at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Ibrahim Al Mudhaf praised the efforts of officials, citizens and the Environmental Protection Council in planning such an event.

Oman military delegation visits Morocco

MUSCAT, March 2, (Kuna): Minister of State for Defence Sayyid Al Mutasim Bin Hamoud Al Busaidi left here today at the head of a military delegation to Morocco for official visit expected to last for several days. Oman's agency reported.

During his visit, Al Mutasim will convey the greetings of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said to King Hassan II of Morocco on the 27th anniversary of his accession day.

The Minister of State for Defence is due to hold talks with senior Moroccan military officials on matters of mutual interest.

Flight Rider Club holds celebration

BRITISH Airways "Flight Rider Club" for youngsters is holding a celebration today. As an added attraction British Airways will fly a giant hot-air balloon above the Cooperative Road in Al Bida today from 4.30 and all day Friday.

Rajiv's message

A MESSAGE from India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah was delivered to the Director General of the Crown Prince's Office, Abdul Latif Abdul Rahman Al Bahar, by India's Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha yesterday.

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Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Tadakiyo Nomura hosted a farewell reception on Tuesday evening at his residence in honour of Minister-Counsellor Katsuya Ikeda. Picture shows Ikeda greeting the Dutch Embassy Commercial Secretary G.J. Texier and Mrs. Texier as Nomura looks on.



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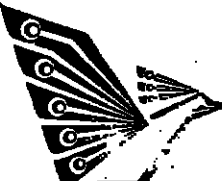
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WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Desert BBQ
Kuwait Players will hold a Desert BBQ on Friday, March 11. Organised games for children. Newcomers particularly welcome. Tel: 5330934; 5613465.

Canadian Women's League
The next meeting will be held on March 6, 4 to 6 pm. Location of the meeting has been changed. Tel: 3718678 for further details.

Photography Contest
Kapika has extended the deadline to March 31 for submitting entries for the photography contest on "Portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait." The KPK 1-D number must be mentioned on all entries. For details phone 4877793.

Kuwait Irish Society
St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Rock 'n' Romance
Kuwait Players present "Rock 'n' Romance," a rock show with a romantic touch at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

Ghazal Singers
Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Mina Bazaar
A Mina Bazaar will be held on March 4 at the EPI ground, Sulaibikhat, to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh. A cricket match between Bangladesh Red and Bangladesh Green will also be played. All Bangladeshis are welcome.

Daniella
Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise — 3903464.

Kuwait Natural History Group
A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 7.30 pm, at the Gulf English School, Salwa. Mr. Quazi will give an illustrated talk on "Super Conductors in Kuwait." Tel: 3718417.

THEATRE

ACT
ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School. The evening consists of two absurdly comic one-act plays, "The Bald Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco and "The American Dream" by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204; 5620332; 5725071.

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Fahaheel and Ahmadi
Al Adel Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., F'heel
Farwaniya
Al Munawwar Pharmacy
South Souk St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Living Daylights
Starring: Timothy Dalton
Al Salamiya
Legal Eagle
Starring: Robert Redford
Al Hamra
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Drive-In
Al Mal'oub (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan
Al Firdous
Sidoor (Hindi)
Starring: Jaya Prada
Fahaheel Open-Air
Jallianwala Bagh (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Dimple Naval
Al Fahaheel
Julie (Hindi)
Al Jahra
Al Bait Mal'oun (Arabic)
Granada
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim

Sulaibikhat
Sarvakalasala (Malayalam)
Al Jeeb
Shahenshah (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Prada
Ahmadi Drive-In
Rajul Fi Ayoum Imraa (Arabic)
FRIDAY
Al Jahra
The Aviator
Sulaibikhat
Hot Shots

PRAYERS

FRIDAY
Fajr 4.51 am
Fajr 12.00
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 5.49
Isha 7.06
FRIDAY
Fajr 4.51 am
Fajr 12.00
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 5.50
Isha 7.06

Mix, stir, fry and eat



In the meantime two more side dishes had appeared — a delicate, clear miso soup garnished with chilli and spring onions and an unusual dish of cabbage and carrots floating in a chilled and slightly vinegary dressing. To end the meal we ordered cinnamon and ginger tea. Bowls of chilled tea, delicately flavoured with cinnamon and just a hint of ginger were very refreshing to the palate. Slices of orange and apple were served as a final touch.

creation. Another Eastern touch is the cold flannel the guest is provided with before the meal. Decorated in pine, with woven bamboo wall panels, the Koreana has a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Sliding shoji doors screen off several private dining rooms. The bench-seating is rather uncomfortable, although the gorgeous, embroidered cushions helped a little. There is a central display case with caladon jars and traditional dolls and some attractive scrolls of calligraphy on the walls.

Our total bill came to KD 19 (including a 10% service charge), making it one of the most expensive meals I have reviewed in this column. In spite of the inflated prices, the Koreana seems to be very popular with Koreans, Japanese and Filipinos, which is perhaps the best recommendation to the authenticity of the food. **RESTAURANT:** New Koreana Restaurant **TYPE:** Korean, Japanese, Chinese **MEAL:** Four main course dishes **PRICE:** KD 19 (for two) **Star rating (out of five):** **FOOD:** ★★★★★ **SERVICE:** ★★★★★ **ATMOSPHERE:** ★★★ **VALUE FOR MONEY:** ★★

As the name suggests the restaurant specialises in Korean food, but also offers a wide range of Japanese and Chinese-style dishes. The menu makes delightful reading with promises of delicacies such as "massaged lean beef sirloin," "Chinese style hot pot," "sea slug and abalone" or "boiled tail soup" (variety unspecified). One's enjoyment of all of this is tempered slightly by a glance at the prices, as a lot of dishes are KD 3.50 to KD 5. For KD 15, though, you can order a set menu for two described as "An ordinary of Korean food."

We began our meal with Yang Jang Pi — a hot mixed vegetable dish with asparagus. Finely shredded carrots, cucumbers, onions, cabbage, roast beef, noodles and pieces of asparagus were attractively arranged in a wheel on a large platter and topped with a raw egg. The waiter then mixed the latter into all the other ingredients and the end-result was delicious — crisp, hot vegetables with a delicate, sesame flavour — rather like a cooked salad.

Combination
The next dish to arrive was the "Toasted beef ribs" which, to our surprise, turned out to be wafer-thin squares of tender, raw beef which were placed on a hot plate on the table to cook. The waiter explained that we were to dip the cooked beef into one of the six side-dishes he'd brought. These included Kim Chi — the fiery pickled Korean cabbage, a more subtle cabbage and sesame seed salad, spinach, sweet beans, shredded white radish and a salty sesame sauce. The different combinations these produced were delicious. With perfect timing, just as we were savouring the last morsels of beef, the next dish arrived: Stir-fry Bulgogi. Raw prawns marinated in garlic, sesame oil, sugar and soy sauce were again cooked on the hot plate. While we were turning them, two cast iron pots arrived containing boiled rice topped with shredded courgettes, carrots, onions, bean sprouts and some unidentifiable vegetable with the texture of bracken! All of this was garnished with spicy sauce and a fried egg. Again the idea was to stir all the ingredients together and the result was a tasty dish of mixed rice which could have made a meal in itself.

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
10.00 Fi Rihab Tarbiya: an educational programme presented by Jassim Al Guareeb.
11.00 Songs
11.30 Islam Wal Insaan: religious programme.
12.00 Ma Da'a Wa Anhami Min Akhbar Jahan: Arabic serial.
1.00 News Summary
1.20 World News via Satellite
2.00 Liqa Al Khamis: roundup of local events
3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'Laeb: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.15 The Saint.
5.25 Maktabat Ala Wa Hina:
6.00 Alwan: presented by Rolah Farah
7.00 News Summary
7.30 Ma'houm Ayesb Farhan: Arabic serial.
8.30 With Islam: hosted by Dr Khalid Al Madhkour
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 From People's Art
10.25 Kaddan Bain Al Zif-farhan: Arabic feature film

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

12.00 Late Night Variety Show: hosted by Amira Al Sharrah.
1.30 News Summary
1.35 World News via Satellite
FRIDAY
9.00 Holy Quran
9.30 Hikayat Min Al Alam.
10.00 News Summary
10.05 World News via Satellite
10.20 Children's Magazine.
11.00 Prophet's Saying: religious programme, presented by Dr. Ahmadi Abul Noor.
11.15 Friday Prayer
12.15 Min Wahi Al Ayaat Al Bayanat: religious serial
1.00 News Summary
1.20 World News via Satellite
2.00 INTERVAL
2.30 Preview of next week's programme on KTV
3.15 Hadith: Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Muhammad Mawalli Sharawi.
4.00 Hindi feature film with Jeetendra and Reena Roy
7.00 News Summary
7.15 Kul Al Funnun: hosted by Rasha Magdi.
7.55 On Science: a weekly programme dealing with scientific advances.
9.00 News in Arabic
10.00 Wrestling
10.45 Songs and Music
11.00 Oudat Min Al Hilm Al Wardi: Arabic play.
11.50 News Summary
11.55 World News Via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

2.00 Opening & Holy Quran
2.08 Cartoons
2.25 A programme on sports federation function in honour of the Minister of Information.
3.00 9th Gulf Football Championship message.
3.45 Live telecast: Football match — Kuwait vs Qatar.
6.00 UAE vs Bahrain
8.00 News in English
8.40 Spencer for Hire: "Widows Walk".
9.30 Bill Cosby Show: "Denise Gets A D".

10.00 Paul Daniels Magic Show.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "Portrait In Black" Starring: Anthony Quinn, Sandra Dee.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY
3.00 Holy Quran
3.10 Sports Studio.
6.00 She Ra-Princess of Power
6.30 Airwolf: "A Piece of Cake".
7.30 Spitting Image: "Your Life in their Hands".
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away
9.05 Matlock: "The Professor".
9.30 Weekend: local programme
10.00 What A Country: Mr Brown is asked to stay away while the students sit for an examination conducted by the principal.
10.30 Wise Guy: Frank discovers Sonny's plot
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

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LETTERS & EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LET the people know the truth and the country is safe—
Abraham Lincoln, US President (1809—1865)

Sikh widows face daunting future

By Trish Saywell

NEW DELHI, (UPI): Rawail Kaur, 40, sits on her bed in a shabby one-room flat, a threadbare shawl draped over shrunken shoulders. Nightly she relives the horrifying incident that brought her to the "widow colony."

"I have nightmares about it," she said. "I recognised familiar faces in the mob—of neighbours and even police officers. Now I don't trust anyone."

She was mentally picturing again her husband and two sons, dragged into the street, battered with iron rods and burned to death by Hindus enraged by the Oct 31, 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards.

The mob ransacked her home and set it afire as she stood frozen in terror.

"We are ready to fight and protect ourselves if they come back for us again," Kaur said, her eyes flashing in anger.

But for Kaur and hundreds of other illiterate Sikh women who saw their loved ones killed and their property destroyed in those riots, the future remains despondently bleak.

Bitterness runs high in the "widow colony," where Kaur and more than 900 single Sikh women were resettled in squalid flats, now ignored by a nation anxious to forget the mayhem that left more than 4,000 Sikhs dead.

Prosecuted
More than three years later, not one person has been prosecuted. Critics charge this is largely because most of the riots' organisers belong to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

"The government has done nothing for the widows except give us Rs 20,000 rupees (\$1,540) for every death and these small flats, for which they are now asking us to pay Rs 42,000," Kaur's mother said.

The old woman nurses an arthritic arm fractured by a club-swinging Hindu. Pungent aromas of cooking oil and cardamom mingle with the cries of children in the dark stairwell outside their room.

"They offered me a job as a street sweeper, but I refused," Kaur said.

She supports her aging mother and a surviving son on a scanty income from a roadside cloth stall and a monthly \$23 stipend

given to every widow by Sikh temple authorities.

A neighbour, Swarn Kaur whose husband was tied with his turban, doused with kerosene and burned alive by Hindus, is among 400 widows who accepted low-paying government jobs.

"They have not compensated us for the property we lost," the gaunt 38-year-old woman said, casting a worried look at her 10-year-old son standing expressionless in the doorway.

"We were left with nothing but the clothes on our backs. Now the government wants us to pay for these rooms."

"Compensation for the widows has been meagre, and the obstacles to rehabilitating them are formidable," said Vina Das, a Delhi university sociology professor.

"I cannot imagine a time when things will become normal. As witnesses to the brutal killings, the women suffer from extreme psychotrauma, and acute depression is compounded by the almost daily fear of renewed violence."

Like Kaur, most of the widows come from the lowest income groups. By tradition they are the most vulnerable and shunned group in Indian society.

Sociologists helping the widows fear mostly for the children.

"The psychological effects on the children have been extraordinary," said Das. "How do you give these kids back the childhood they've lost?"

Relations between the Congress Party and the minority Sikh community deteriorated sharply after troops stormed the Golden Temple of Amritsar—the Sikhs' holiest shrine—to crush armed followers of Sikh separatist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in June 1984. The assault led to Mrs Gandhi's assassination.

The government's apparent reluctance to punish those involved in the ensuing riots has helped push many young Sikhs into the terrorist camp.

"The government is not trying to punish the guilty ones," said retired Lt Gen J. S. Aurora, a Congress Party legislator and moderate Sikh leader.

A government probe "did not deny the fact that there had been a massive failure on the part of the police and that certain congressmen had been involved, but the conclusions only stated that the Congress as a party had not been involved," Aurora said.

Removal of Ershad

Opposition leaders united on one point

By Malcolm Davidson

DHAKA, (Reuters): The women who lead Bangladesh's two main opposition parties are reputed to be heartily dislike each other—but have pledged to join forces to oust President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), spearheading a boycott of today's parliamentary elections, have traded angry words in the past.

In interviews this week they both said they got on with each other and insisted they were fighting the same battle.

Their parties have a joint committee, but the two leaders never share the same platform and have not met since New Year's Day.

"We have unity to one point, yes—to remove Ershad," said Hasina, speaking in the house where her father, Bangladesh's first President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was assassinated in 1975.

"We believe in greater democratic process. First thing we want is the removal of this authoritarian government and true elections," she added.

Farce
Awami and the BNP dubbed this week's polls a farce and have urged the country's 46 million voters to join the boycott. A 36-hour general strike called to disrupt the poll began to grip Bangladesh.

Diplomats and political observers say that although Ershad is deeply unpopular, his Jatiya Party is bound to be declared the resounding winner today.

They say Hasina and Khaleda

Afghan communists are 'traitors'

Mujahedeen refuse to share power

By Oliver Wates

KOT CHANDANA, Pakistan, (Reuters): Talk of sharing power with communists is not popular in the bazaar at Kot Chandana, home for 180,000 exiled Afghans.

"They are traitors, they must be wiped out," said Haji Saifullah. "It's because of them we came to Pakistan. The jihad (holy war) must continue until they are annihilated."

"Not a single communist should be allowed to work in the government," added another refugee. A jostling crowd of turbaned Afghan men shouted their approval.

Excited

More moderate views can be heard in the quiet back streets of the vast camp of tents and mud houses by the River Indus in northern Pakistan.

"A coalition government needs to be formed so that the Russians will leave Afghan soil and the refugees can go home," said Abdul Malik, a young and articulate landowner from the northern province of Kunduz.

"For the time being a deal would be good if it led to a Russian pullout. But in the end we will not let communists have a

share in power because we are all Muslims and there is no room for them," he said.

Like the rest of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the inmates of Kot Chandana are excited at a diplomatic drive to end the conflict devastating their country.

But brief interviews with some 25 Afghan men—scarcely a single woman was to be seen during a five-hour visit—left an impression of uncertainty and differences about what they should do next.

"Hopes are very high," said Shafi Sabir, the Pakistani official in charge of the camp. "Everybody is expecting that something is going to happen."

Fraud

The Afghans rose by more than a 10th against the Pakistani rupee in February, as refugees bought currency for a possible return, said money-changer Nazam Mohammad from Takhar province.

Many are deeply sceptical that the eight-year-old Soviet presence will really end, despite Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to pull his troops out by March 1989 provided an agreement is signed in Geneva by March 15.

"I can't believe the Russians will leave, it's just a fraud and a gimmick," said Mohammad Younis, a farmer from Balkh near the Soviet border.

"I think they should be forced out. Words and talk won't make them go," added Mohammad Salim from Logar, south of Kabul, sitting at work outside his tiny cobbler's booth in the busy main street.

On one thing all are agreed—their hatred for what they unanimously describe as the "puppet regime" of President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party (PDDP).

And all the men questioned—almost all spend some of each year fighting inside Afghanistan—pledged to continue their jihad if the Soviet Union pulled out leaving the PDDP in power.

"As long as Russian agents are in power, it is as if the Russians are still on our soil," said Younis.

Struggled

"Before the Russians were in our country, the Parcham and Khalq bombarded, tormented and oppressed us," said Agil Khan from Logar referring to the PDDP's two wings.

"We struggled against these people before the Russians

invasion and if they remain in power we can't say we are free and independence is won."

The PDDP seized power in April 1978 and guerrilla attacks against it began by mid-summer. Soviet troops arrived in December 1979.

The ruling party says it is no longer communist, but its appeals for the refugees to return and join in a national reconciliation seem to have made no impression in Kot Chandana.

Pakistan, fearful that the refugees will be unwilling to go home if the PDDP remains in power, is pressing for the creation of a coalition government, with representatives of both sides.

The seven rebel parties based in Pakistan refuse even to contemplate sharing power with the PDDP and the majority of those consulted in Kot Chandana seem to share this view.

"We want a mujahedeen (rebel) government, an Islamic government, after the liberation of our country," said Khan Walus, from the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, waiting for treatment outside the camp hospital.

"There should be no sharing of power with communists, not a single communist should be all-

owed in the government," he added, to approving shouts from other patients and passers-by.

A group of 20 men gathered in a mud-walled room take a less hard-line stance. These are mainly supporters of a return of the former King Zahir Shah, overthrown after a 40-year reign in 1973, and are critical of the seven parties.

Critics!

"The mujahedeen who are fighting at the front support a coalition and a Russian withdrawal, but not those who thrived and benefited from the continuation of war," said one.

"Those who live well in Pakistan want a government for themselves, but those who lead a miserable life here support the formation of a coalition government so the Afghanistan issue can be solved and they can return home," added another.

Most of those questioned said that if a Soviet pullout was followed by civil war, they would leave their families in Pakistan and go back to continue the fight.

The bazaar may be thriving, but for most of the inmates life in Kot Chandana is clearly no picnic. The United Nations, which funds it, has recently stopped issuing grants of tea and sugar as an unaffordable luxury.

Lebanon events turn spotlight on Druze

By Jim Muir

NICOSIA, Cyprus: Recent events in Lebanon have turned the spotlight on one of the country's smallest but most influential communities, the Druze.

The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), as the Druze militia is called, is currently engaged in a tense crisis with the loyalist, Christian-dominated Lebanese Army command. When the PSP failed to return a helicopter in which a Druze officer had earlier defected from the Air Force, the Army on Jan 2, ordered a naval blockade of the coastline that the Druze control.

Only hours after, that same coastline was the target of air strikes launched by Israeli warplanes in a belated retaliation for a Palestinian commando's November hang glider-mounted attack.

The Israeli air raid, which killed three PSP militiamen and six Palestinian commandos, as well as 12 civilians, raised questions about why the Israelis chose to hit that Druze area—for the first time—at such a tense moment.

For the most part, the Druze have probably suffered less than any other politically active community from Lebanon's successive upheavals, and under PSP chief Walid Jumblatt's decisive and sometimes ruthless leadership, have been able to turn some to advantage.

"Cooperate with the strongest, but keep me in your heart," is a key injunction of the Druze faith.

Jumblatt appears to have taken that to heart, bending with the winds and establishing independent relationships with numerous local and outside forces.

He has a direct line to Moscow, and in 1986 remodelled the PSP on Soviet Communist Party lines. He visits Libya and openly admits to receiving money from Col Khaddafi. Last year, he sent hundreds of his militiamen to fight for Libya in Chad, in return for payment in US dollars.

Closer to home, Jumblatt has discreet links with Palestinian groups, some of which have bases in the Druze area. The Druze are

also widely believed to have links with Israel, conducted through their conservative religious sheikhs.

At the age of just 27, Jumblatt inherited the Druze leadership when his father Kamal was assassinated in a mountain ambush in 1977.

Although they make up only about 8 per cent of Lebanon's population, the Druze—hardy mountain folk with a centuries-old reputation as fierce warriors—have always played a role out of all proportion to their numbers.

In recent years, the Druze have carved out their own de facto canton in their traditional redoubt, the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut.

When the Israelis withdrew from the Shouf in the fall of 1983, Jumblatt's warriors overran and razed more than 80 Maronite Christian villages. Tens of thousands of survivors fled to the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

That process was completed in April 1985, when the Druze swept down the mountains and drove the Christian militia out of the coastal towns, giving the Druze canton an outlet to the sea.

Despite the bloodshed, Christian leaders now vie for Jumblatt's favour, knowing that their stock will soar if they can preside over a return of the Christian refugees to the Shouf.

"Everybody knows that the Druze and the Maronites are the only real long-distance runners in Lebanon," said one Christian party official. The primordial and often bloody relationship between the two mountain communities has been at the core of Lebanese politics for centuries.

Jumblatt's role is expected to be all the more important this year with elections for the presidency (traditionally Maronite preserve) slated for September.

The Druze have established their own civil administration in the Shouf, and run their own lives virtually untrammelled by interference from the collapsed Lebanese state. They have their own schools, hospitals and radio station.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Le Pen woos boot boys at campaign rally

By Simon Haydon

VERSAILLES, France, (Reuters): In the crowded hall, youths wearing boots crank up the battle cry, "France for the French, immigrants out," as Jean-Marie Le Pen embraces a baroness, the latest convert to his controversial cause.

Baroness Laurence Bich, wife of the founder of the BIC pen empire, paid an impassioned homage to Le Pen, leader of the extreme right-wing National Front Party, at an election rally last week in the shadow of the Palace of Versailles.

"Afraid of Jean-Marie Le Pen? On the contrary, he's just what France needs to stop the slide into decadence," Bich told 3,000 people at the rally, held to launch the final phase of his campaign to become president.

With two months to go before the elections, opinion polls show support for 59-year-old Le Pen is increasing slowly to around 11 per cent, well short of a majority, but strong enough to be a serious threat to other conservative candidates.

During the election campaign, the former UN chief seemed almost to thrive on a return to crisis management.

Recently he has shown signs of anger, and admitted that the unrelenting accusations are getting on his nerves. But he vows to stay in office out of duty to the people who elected him.

speeches that provoked charges of racism have been toned down during many television and radio appearances, but Le Pen's audiences are more demanding.

Worried

Outside the Versailles congress hall, worried Le Pen aides ordered officials not to let too many of the dozens of youths, hair short and wearing high-ankle boots, into the meeting.

But enough were allowed in to lead the football-style chants of "Le Pen president, Le Pen president" quickly taken up by the majority of the audience, in the main well-dressed and affluent French citizens of all ages.

Le Pen enters the hall to the grandiose prelude of Verdi's opera "Nabucco", fists punching the air like a boxer entering the ring. He strides around the stage, microphone in hand, smiling broadly.

Whistles and jeers greet Le Pen's stinging criticism of well-known French Jewish journalists as he launches into a tirade against communists, liberals, "soft" conservatives, anti-racists and "leftist" clergymen.



Publish currency rates

SIR: Since January, Arab Times has stopped publishing local exchange rates of different currencies from various exchange companies. Instead, there were two pages of world stock market rates. I do not know how many people are benefitted with this change, but I am quite sure that a large number of your readers is deprived of the former service. Is there no way to bring it back?

Secondly, it is beautiful to watch the sea during high tide but if I follow the times published in your newspaper, I will never be able to make it. Can it be taken care of, please.

U.C. Sharma,
Hawalli.

Editor's Note: We are now publishing the currency rates supplied by the Central Bank of Kuwait. The timings for high tide and low tide are provided by the Meteorological department and are supposed to be correct.

Put your act together

SIR: The next time Kuwait Cine Club organises a film festival and wants to publish a news on the event, they should add one sentence: "Fewing rights of the films being screened are reserved for Cine Club members only, regardless of availability of seats". This would save many interested viewers insult and embarrassment they recently experienced at the American Film Festival from the likes of a rude usher at the gate. Among those treated insolently by the usher were doctors, lawyers, architects and engineers—certainly not a bunch of hoodlums who would cause trouble. The Cine Club has lost not just a few future memberships but a lot of goodwill as well.

Dr Geet Chadha,
Jabryia.

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Falling from grace

SIR: Is American freedom without limits, that allows individuals to transgress all boundaries, even those set by God?

Yes, whether the average person realises it or not, true laws of freedom and human rights are not established by man-made constitutions or human systems of morals and ethics, and proof of this will soon be established, no matter how strong a country may be politically or materially.

If America continues to support what is forbidden by God, she will surely fall from grace. Truth and justice will prevail in the end, because the true believers were promised this: God is All-Knowing, and All-Powerful.

An American,
(Name and address supplied)

Co-education is un-Islamic

SIR: The Pakistan Modern School recently introduced co-education, which has caused concern among parents, particularly of girls. Because of co-education boys and girls have started neglecting studies. Their character is also being affected. Co-education is not permitted in Islam. I request the concerned authorities to look into the matter and stop this practice at the school.

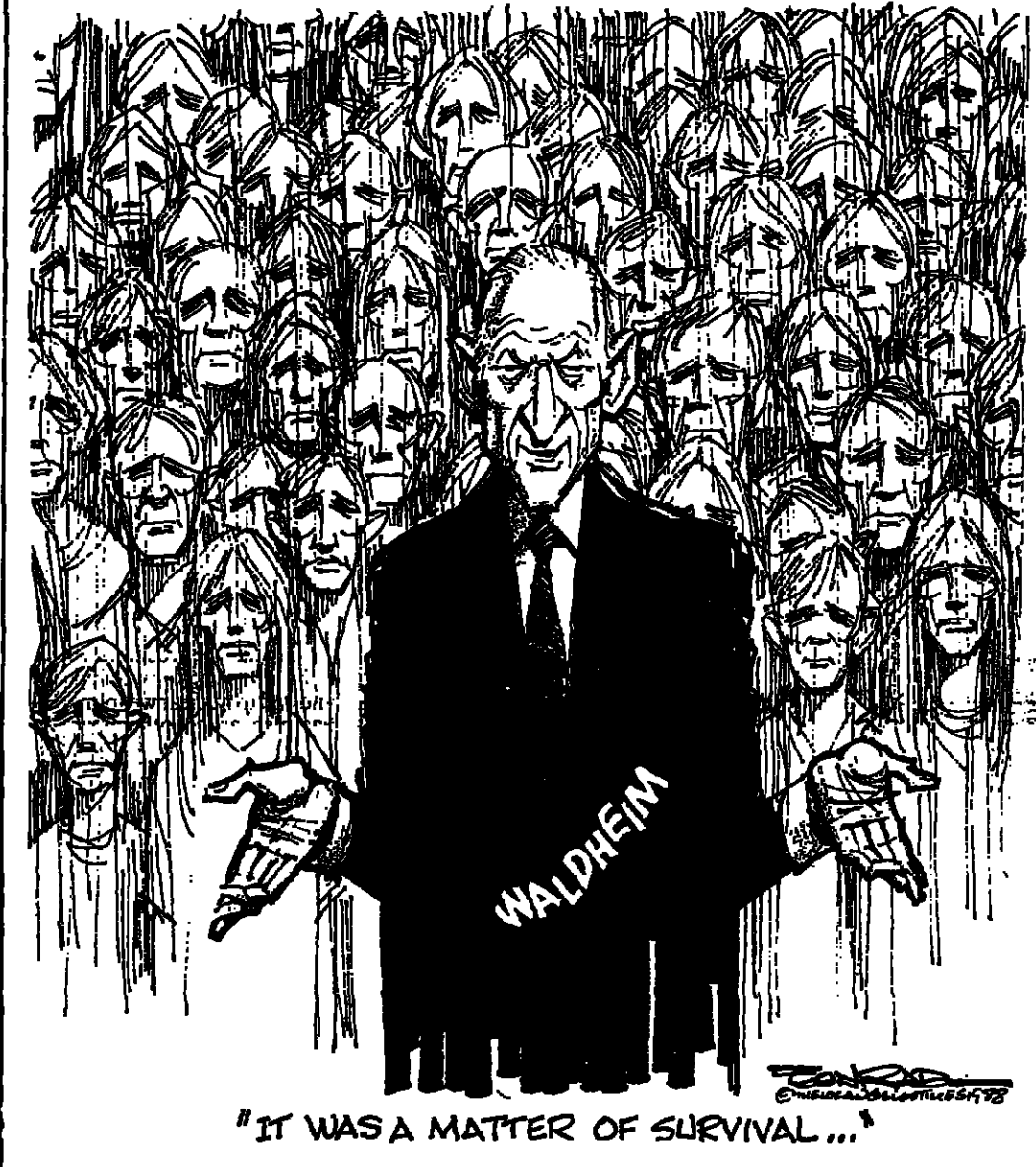
M. A. Siddiqui,
Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Fugitive

BELFAST, March 2, (UPI): One of the two IRA fighters who blew themselves up with their own bomb in a premature explosion two days ago headed the police's most wanted terrorist list and was suspected in at least 25 killings, police sources said today.

They identified the dead man as Brendan Burns, 33, wanted in the 1979 bombing that killed 18 soldiers near the border with Ireland—the bloodiest single blow to British troops in Northern Ireland—on the same day that the Irish Republican Army killed Lord Louis Mountbatten.



"IT WAS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL..."

Waldheim affair splits Austria

By David Lewis

VIENNA, (Reuters): Two years ago, Austria's image was largely of Lippizaner horses, apple strudel and Strauss waltzes.

Now, on the second anniversary of the Waldheim affair, many would say that image has changed. Business and tourism are said to be suffering. Western heads of state and government are staying away.

Two years ago, former United Nations Chief Kurt Waldheim seemed the obvious candidate for head of state.

Now, elder statesman Bruno Kreisky said last week: "He is known worldwide as a liar, and it is a catastrophe for Austria to have a liar as a president."

Waldheim, 69, is on the US "watch list" of undesirable aliens. No Western country will receive him, and the only Western government head to pay him an official visit has been the prime minister of tiny Liechtenstein.

And a historical commission report last month which said that Waldheim facilitated the execution of war crimes has plunged Austria into what Chancellor Franz Vranitzky describes as its deepest political crisis since World War II.

Economy

On tourism Vranitzky has said: "We cannot be indifferent to the fact that American tourists are not coming to Austria..." and "the economy is already feeling it."

The Austrian weekly news magazine Profil carried an article in its edition dated Feb 29 which gives a long list of examples of Austrian firms it says are being turned away because of Waldheim, particularly from the American market.

In Vienna, Monika Hrabac says her Cosmos Travel Bureau is doing 70 per cent less business

with American groups than in 1985, before the Waldheim affair. Eight US groups had cancelled a trip because of "political reasons".

One Austrian textile firm has been advised by its American partner to sell goods through a sister firm in West Germany with the label "made in West Germany" rather than "made in Austria".

The Waldheim affair dates back to an article in Profil of March 3, 1986.

Waldheim was already the leading candidate for elections to Austria's largely ceremonial presidency that May and June.

UN colleagues may have found him aloof and lacklustre, but compatriots could feel proud of him as one of very few Austrians to have made a name on the world stage.

Back

Kreisky had even suggested that his own Socialist Party (SPO) back Waldheim for president with the conservative People's Party (OEPV). (The OEPV grabbed him for its own.)

Then Profil published a copy of Waldheim's military card bearing endorsements suggesting he had belonged to the Nazi Brownshirts (SA) and students organisation.

More serious accusations followed thick and fast, many spearheaded by the New York-based World Jewish Congress—a fact critics say was manipulated by the OEPV and sympathetic newspapers to re-ignite anti-semitism in Austria.

It became clear that Waldheim had not, as accounts of his life had implied, spent 1942-45 studying law in Vienna. He had served as an intelligence officer in the Balkans under a general later executed for war crimes.

Waldheim denied ever belonging to a Nazi group and said he did only his duty in the German Army and insisted he had a clear

conscience. He said the accusations were simply part of a smear campaign.

The commission report last month split further a country already deeply divided by Waldheim along lines of age, education and party.

Protest

Demonstrators protest against Waldheim every Sunday outside St. Stephen's Cathedral. Pupils are ripping down or vandalising Waldheim portraits in schools. Opinion surveys show for the first time that Waldheim would not win elections held today.

Waldheim's presidency is becoming increasingly embarrassing for Austria with the approach of March 11, the 50th anniversary of the country's annexation by Hitler.

Critics at home and abroad accuse Austria of never coming to terms with its share of guilt in Nazi war crimes after the annexation, greeted by many.

The SPO wants Waldheim to resign for the sake of the country. But Foreign Minister Alois Mock's OEPV is remaining loyal.

The pressure has been unrelenting, so how has Waldheim coped with it for two years?

Kurt Diemann, 64, a personal friend of Waldheim who campaigned actively for him, told Reuters last week he was "amazed" by the president's excellent physical shape only hours after a highly hostile television interview.

During the election campaign, the former UN chief seemed almost to thrive on a return to crisis management.

Recently he has shown signs of anger, and admitted that the unrelenting accusations are getting on his nerves. But he vows to stay in office out of duty to the people who elected him.

Indian cinema suffering from over-production

Futile search for good taste and quality

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

IF it is a question of sheer quantity, nobody can beat India, which still retains its title as the biggest film producer in the world. Last year again, a record number of 806 films were made in twenty languages.

According to figures collected at the six censor board offices in different cities, the total number certified, including imported films, touched 1,005 in 1987. But this time there were more foreign films, due to the liberal policy of import by the Non Resident Indians (N.R.I.s). The Indian production of 806 actually showed a decline as compared to previous years. In 1984 the figure rose to 833 for the first time and it was 840 in 1986. But the all-time record-breaking was done in 1985 with 912 Indian films.

Last year's decline can be attributed to several reasons. Many theatres were taken up by the N.R.I. films, which contained sex and violence and drew bigger audiences than the Indian films. Distributors were not easily buying new films due to the heavy costs of prints and publicity (each colour print costs nearly 40,000 rupees). Several completed films kept lying in the cans. The long strike in the cinemas of North India further led to a fall in releases, as producers did not want to lose one big zone. Consequently production also got slowed



Jaya Prada in Sindoor. One of the better films of 1987.



Films filled with action, revenge and violence were safe at the box-office, like Dharmendra's Hukumat.

down, as there was not enough finance to complete the films.

A break-down on the basis of languages also shows a strange pattern. Though Hindi films are the most known and shown all over, their actual figure was only 150, i.e. about 19 per cent of the total output of 806. The South's films totalled up much better, the score in four languages coming at 520 films i.e. 65 per cent of the total. Of these, Tamil and Telugu films were at the top, with about 165 films each. Here too, the total output was less as compared to the previous year, mainly due to some big flops.

Malayalam production came down to a hundred films while Kannada showed a surpr-

ising rise to 88. Of the rest, there were 35 films in Bengali, 27 in Marathi, 14 in Bhojpuri, 11 in Gujarati and less than ten in Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Haryanvi, Nepali, Garhwali and Rajasthani. One film each was made in Brijbhasha (of North India) and Kumaoni (of the hill tribes). This time, there were no films in Bodo, Manipuri, Avadhi, Sindhi or Karvi as in 1986.

The production load was divided between two main centres, with Madras making 251 films and Bombay handling 172. Bangalore, Trivandrum, and Hyderabad had an average production of 110 films each. The smallest centre with 64 films still remains Calcutta, though films in five languages including Nepali are made here. However, there are no hard and fast rules of the entire shooting being done in these particular centres. Films in one language are shot in other provinces, even apart from the outdoor

locations. For example, if a state like Kerala or Karnataka offers subsidy, then many outsider films get made there. Moreover, films are certified in centres other than those where made. This is to take advantage of the liberal boards in some places. Producers even set up temporary offices at these centres.

Contributed

Last year, the South contributed a lot to the Hindi film output. In Bombay itself, only 96 Hindi films were produced and censored (most of them falling in trouble with the examining and revising committees and some even in the Appellate Tribunal). On the other hand, 31 Hindi movies were made in Madras, ten in Hyderabad, five each in Bangalore and Trivandrum and four even in Calcutta. The large number of different language films shows the vast cultural diversity of India and the desire of the people of each province and even dialect to make and hear a film in one's own tongue. Over the years, films have been made in thirty languages and dialects, though many were given up after one or two attempts as the markets were too small.

Last year, the imported films rose to 200, though the figure is much less than in earlier years (like 334 in 1952). But it is a marked increase over the previous three years, with 1984 being as low as 57 foreign films. Many of them selected by the N.R.I.s (jocularly called as non reliable Indians) were of a cheap quality meant only for commercial exploitation. Their explicit sex scenes were also publicised through crude posters etc. and got some theatres into trouble.

On the Indian front itself, there was not much to crow about so far as quality is concerned. In fact, quality becomes a casualty because of excessive production and the monopolies it breeds among the handful of stars and composers, who are most in demand and whose names are supposed to sell at the box-office. Is it not a pity that a country making 800 films annually cannot easily find a film to be entered for the Oscar awards? (Not a single movie has won an Oscar any time in the past). This year, the Tamil film "Nayakan" starring Kamal-hasan has been sent though many don't consider it a happy choice. There is a similar difficulty in finding entries for Berlin, Cannes, Venice and other festivals. Last year, too, Indian cinema drew a blank in the international arena.

The production boom does not match with quality or even reasonably good standard in the average commercial film. Most of them can be just brushed aside as stupid and crude. Box office success is also no criterion for good quality. At times, it is exactly the reverse. In 1987, the films to hit the goldmine were Pratighaat, Hukumat, Aag Hi Aag, Kudrat Ka Kanoon, Marte Dam Tak, Sindoor, Mr India and Khudgarz. Also getting good collections were Loha, Insaniyat Ke Dushman, Insaaf Kaun Karega, Parivar, Sansar, Dance Dance and Watan Ke Rakhwale. Of these, only Khudgarz, Mr India, Sindoor, Kudrat Ka Kanoon and Sansar had some good qualities. In the absence of really superior stuff, somewhat better films like Mirch Masala Jalwa, Kaash, Decait, Parama Debhishu or Pushpak got over-praised. They were like silver needles in a haystack. Yet Pushpak deserves fulsome praise for being totally different and inventive.

And now another year of 800 to 900 films being frantically made will end probably in the same futile search, for good taste and quality.

BEHIND THE SCREEN

Hema Malini is playing "Indira" in a new film which was started recently. But it has nothing to do with the late Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. To avoid any misunderstanding, Hema goes around saying that she is playing Advocate Indira. Don't be surprised if they change the title too.

Sanjana Kapoor (Shashi's daughter) has set a new record for the whole Kapoor clan. There was an unwritten law coming down from Prithviraj and Raj Kapoor that no daughter of the family would ever act in films, though actresses may be used as daughters-in-law on the condition that would give up their careers. But Sanjana has beaten them to it by becoming Naseeruddin's beloved in "Hero Hiralal." Left behind is Karishma, daughter of Randhir Kapoor and Babita who wanted to be the first.

Salma Agha feels so scalded after appearing in scanty clothes in "Jungle Ki Beti" that she quickly wants to wash away the image. Moreover, it did not do for her, what "Tarzan" had done for Kimi. So Salma comes over-dressed up to the neck in parties and functions. How she wishes that just one more "Nikah" would come her way.

Archana Pura Singh has not landed anything big despite the modest success of "Jaiwa" in big cities. Her boy friend Pan-kaj Parasher is also of no help. He goes around with her but keeps her in her place while handling star-studded films. She may end up doing supporting or dancing roles. Or perhaps after "The Perfect Murder," she may go international and one up on her unfaithful lover boy.

The number of cakes made for birthday parties and presented to the stars are according to their dates of birth. So Shatrughan born on ninth was made to cut nine cakes and Govinda eleven. What will they do with a star born on 31st?

Sunil Dutt after his long "Padayatra" (foot march) from Bombay to Punjab is now going for a similar one in Japan. It will end at Hiroshima, where Sunil will plead for world peace and end to nuclear weapons. He has also asked other stars to join, knowing very well that they will not walk ten feet outside their air conditioned cars. After all, Sunil wants all the limelight for himself. But then, people ask, when will he find time to make films or act in them?

Young Amala has already started harassing her Hindi producer Surendra Mohan of "Teri Talash Main." She gave four dates in place of fourteen. And she does not even have a Hindi film to her credit yet, ("Pushpak" was a silent film.)



Salma Agha: dressed modestly after her scantily-clad exposure in Jungle Ki Beti.



Archana Pura Singh: put on the sidelines by her boy-friend. If she is dropped by producers, she won't be noticed. Surendra Mohan has not only changed the heroine (to Poonam) but also changed the title of the film to "Hisab Khoun Ka."



Sujata Mehta and Nana Patekar in Pratighaat, the only genuine hit of the year.



Smrita Patil in Parama Debhishu.



Anil Kapoor's Mr India was a box-office success.

OVERLAND TRANSPORT COMPANY buys MACK



Bahrah Trading Company has won a contract for the supply of 135 MACK Tractors and 90 Nos. 3-Axle Trailers to the Overland Transport Company K.S.C.

Picture shows Mr. Naser Mohamed Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Al-Sayer Group of Companies, formally receiving the contract from Mr. Ahmed Shihab Al-Waheeb, Chairman & Managing Director of Overland Transport Co.

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HUMOUR/FEATURES

By Keith Wells

I HEARD a marvellous idea the other day, from the leader of the American Rhino Party. No, I've never heard of him either, but his idea is a real winner. He wants to save energy costs all over the world by the brilliantly simple tactic of lowering the boiling point of water!

Fantastic eh? Power stations will need much less coal to boil the water to drive the steam turbines, gasstoves will become a thing of the past since you'll be able to do all your cooking over a candle, or a match if you prefer fast food. Better still, if say, the boiling point were dropped to fifty degrees centigrade, instead of a hundred, it'll only take half as long to boil a kettle of water for a cup of tea.

All of this is marvellous, but I think it can be improved on if we go the whole hog and raise the freezing point at the same time, that way you'll be able to make ice cubes in a cool breeze instead of an expensive refrigerator. An AC can double as a deep freeze, even a small fan will be enough to damage the inalienable rights of a brass monkey.

Science

Of course, once science starts to take radical steps like these changes, for a start I'd like to see the leading nations of the world move over to a flat earth policy, free us forever from the tyranny of gravity. I mean, who needs it any way? Gravity who wears you down, makes things sag and wobble with age, so why do we put up with it? I'll tell you why, we only need gravity because we foolishly cling to the old-fashioned idea of a round earth. If the earth is round then we have to have gravity to help us stick around.

A few suggestions

without it we'll all fall off. But gravity has terrible side effects, if you don't believe me, just look at old people, gravity is dragging them down into the grave, they sag, they bend, they creak and groan. Gravity—grave, it even sounds like there's a direct connection.

Now look at the benefits of a flat earth; everyone can stand up for themselves without any gravity to help them. Better still, life would get an edge, a real place to take troublemakers and dispose of them neatly and quickly once and for all. I suggest we re-arrange the map, I know the folks at KTV will help with this since they are world leaders in the field. The thing to do is put all the nice, friendly, stable countries safely in the middle, and then arrange all the nasty, difficult, aggressive ones around the edge. Any more trouble and one quick shove is all we'd need to get rid of them forever.

While we're at it, let's do something about the sun too. At present it's very unfair, organised, some countries get all the sun they want, others get nothing. Look at poor old Finland, six months a year without a peep, while all the time down in the deep desert of Saudi Arabia's Empty Quarter there's all that sunshine going to waste. I live in Wales, lovely place, but it rains all the time, now if international trade is to have any real meaning, we Welsh ought to be able to do some kind of a deal with the Saudis. They'd just love our rain, cool, refreshing stuff and gallons of it, and in return we'd be happy to take some of their sunshine.

Let's face it, today's politicians are a useless lot, they never seem to come up with really radical solutions that would benefit everybody. Take wars, for example, it's an undeniable fact that nearly all wars are caused by neighbours. So far as history can tell Vietnam has never, ever had a war with Nicaragua, Australia and Austria have never had so much as a tiff and even Israel gets on well with Iceland. The solution is simple, shuffle these countries around, get the Greeks away from the Turks, take Northern Ireland away from both Britain and Southern Ireland, even move either Russia or America down by New Zealand somewhere in the southern hemisphere, and see how quickly relations between age-old enemies will improve dramatically.

Suggest

While we're at it, let's make a few more revolutionary changes. The speed of light, for example, is much too fast. All those billions of kilometres per second or whatever it is, it's bound to cause accidents. Slow it down, I say, make it take things easy for a change and everyone will benefit. Just imagine, if you didn't see something until a day or so after it had actually happened, you'd have plenty of time to get over it. Like when your wife comes in with an outrageously expensive coat, you wouldn't see it till payday, so it wouldn't be half so painful. Or if you crashed your car you wouldn't see the other car approaching until after you were safely in the hospital. Slow lightning wouldn't

be half so frightening as the present flashy kind.

The sea is another subject for change. There's too much of it just sitting there, no good to anyone except a bunch of sailors and a few lazy fish. Why should the sharks get all the real estate? I say we should drain at least seventy per cent of the sea and just leave enough for the fish fingers and some nice coastlines. All that wasted stuff in the middle should be sent right back down the plughole. This will obviously release billions of acres of new land so that over-populated places like China, India or Hawaii could spread themselves out and enjoy all the benefits of the American Midwest. Fancy being able to say I'm a mid-Pacific farmer, or I've got a thousand acre spread in the mid-Atlantic. Another useful result would be that land prices everywhere would plummet and sooner or later everyone would be able to afford an acre of Mayfair or Park Lane.

Then there's the Arctic and the Antarctic, a real waste of resources if ever I saw one. I mean, who needs a million square mile deep freeze? Not that they are even using it for that, at present it's just a waste of space. If the freezing point of water was raised, the ice would all melt, then we could get on with the business of draining the Antarctic, kick out the penguins who've had their own way for far too long and start selling nice little plots of real estate with a view of the South Pole, which would become a real landmark without all that water covering up the bottom four fifths of it.

NEW Hampshire can be a lonely place once the primaries are over. I realised this when I saw a sign on the border that said, "Will the last reporter leaving Manchester please turn out the lights?"

I stopped for gas at a 7-Eleven in the town of Boot. The gas man, seeing my press credentials on the windshield, put his snow cap on and rushed over.

"If you want a wider shot you can set your TV cameras over there," he said.

"I'm not here to set up cameras," I told him. "I just need some gas."

"Don't you want to know my opinion of George Bush?"

"It's too late. Nobody in the United States cares what you think about Bush anymore."

"Dan rather cared what I thought. He stuck his mike in my mouth for two minutes."

"Dan's only interest now is South Carolina."

That isn't what he told me. He told me what people in New Hampshire say about Bush could change the results of the election. I gave him some Twinkies because he let me say hello to my mother.

"I would like a cup of coffee."

"Jack Kemp always had

The Art Buchwald Column

Lonely New Hampshire

a cup of coffee before he went out on the campaign trail. He sat right on that box over there next to Gary Hart."

"Kemp didn't know it was Gary Hart. He thought it was Warren Beatty."

"What was Gary Hart doing in a 7-Eleven?"

"He said he was looking for a voter to talk to any voter."

"This seems to have been a busy store."

"We're the last 7-Eleven before you get to Concord, so everybody loads up here. Tom Brokaw brought a Spam sandwich from me last month and asked if I was going to vote for Dukakis. I told Tom I would if it assured me of getting on the evening news. I said we in New Hampshire can't make up our minds unless we know we're appearing on prime time."

"I was about to call it a night when Ted Koppel

came by with his crew and asked me to go on split screen as a typical Boot, N.H. resident. I told him I'd be delighted since I had already done it for Dan Rather, Bryant Gumbel, Oprah Winfrey and Phil Donahue."

Ted said he was looking for someone who wasn't so overexposed, so I called up my cousin who had only been on '60 Minutes. The trouble with you TV fellers is you think that you can just drive up and find a New Hampshire media virgin who has never been interviewed on television."

"You can relax now," I said. "New Hampshire has had its day in the sun."

"Don't sit near the corn flakes," the man cried. "Barbara Walters sat there when she talked to me about Mrs Dole. She asked me lots of personal questions about her?"

"Did you answer them?"



"It was hard because Mrs Dole only came in a couple of times, bought frozen yogurt and ate it in the car. You can't get a real fix on a candidate's wife from that."

"But Barbara didn't care?"

"She couldn't have been nicer, especially when she found out my brother drives a plow for the Department of Transportation. You want any pictures of me holding up the photo of the Russian missiles in Cuba that the Rev Robertson left behind?"

"Why did he leave it behind?"

"He said the people of New Hampshire were the only born-again voters who knew he was telling the truth."

1988, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

By Jonathan Rowe

BOSTON: One of the more promising new developments in the medical field is also one of the most unusual. It will cause no frenzied trading on Wall Street, has no adverse side effects, and involves no increases in medicare costs.

It is called laughter. Alison Crane, who recently founded the American Association for Therapeutic Humour, in Skokie, Ill., is among its leading advocates.

When Ms Crane was working as a nurse in a Chicago hospital, she recalled in a recent interview, she had an 83-year-old patient named Alice.

Like many older patients, Alice never wanted to be a burden to others. Unable to walk unaided, she would lie for hours in mounting discomfort, before calling a nurse to help her to the bathroom.

One day, while she was helping Alice get to that destination, Ms Crane started snapping her fingers. Alice picked up the best with a rendition of "Shuffling Off to Buffalo," which blossomed into a gospel medley. From that day on, these excursions changed from a painful chore to something to look forward to.

She was in Cambridge, Mass., recently to address more than 600 nurses, social workers, and others at a conference on "The Power of Laughter and Play." Similar gatherings this year in San Francisco and

Laughter: the best medicine

Toronto drew as many as 1,000 people.

"It's really taking off," says Linden Skjoe of the Institute for the Advancement of Human Behaviour in Portola Valley, Calif., organiser of the events. "To get over something defined as terminal, you have to be very creative."

Septics

For septics there was ample ammunition, as the very latest in California pop therapy chic — from visualisation to hugging — was on prominent display. In case anyone missed the point, volunteers dressed as gypsies and clowns greeted participants with feathers, balloons, and admonitions to smile. "Trying too hard can become a parody of itself," observed Arlan Dean, a New York City comic and conference volunteer.

Yet mixed with the silliness was genuine wisdom, as well as evidence that the medical establishment is starting to give people credit for the role they play in their own healing.

Hospitals are setting up rooms where patients can watch old Marx Brothers and Woody Allen movies and listen to Bob and Ray tapes — the way Norman Cousins, former editor of the Saturday Review, did in his much-publicised conquest of a disease generally regarded as incurable.

Even the NFL is getting involved — Nurses For Laughter, that is. The organisation produces a button that reads: "Warning: Humour May Be Hazardous to Your Illness."

In an opening presentation, Gerald Jampolsky and Diana Cirincione, his wife, explained the principles that guide their work with, among others, individuals diagnosed as having AIDS.

"We have to go beyond body," said Dr Jampolsky, a former medical doctor and reformer alcoholic, who founded the Centre for Attitudinal Healing in Tiburon, Calif. "We have to heal our hearts, heal our thoughts."

"It's never the situation (that's to blame). It's never the other person. It's always our thoughts and attitudes about them."

In an interview afterwards, Ms. Cirincione said, "People come (to their centre) to find ways to be of service," she said. "People get so involved in helping other people, they lose awareness of their bodies."

"I'd rather talk about issues. For example, hurting inside. That's the problem."

Joel Goodman, who edits a magazine called Laughing Matters, said his interest in humour and healing began with a hospital driver named Alvin, who helped lift the Goodman

family's spirits when his father was undergoing heart surgery. "Alvin did more than the heavy-duty professionals," Mr Goodman says.

So Goodman started the Humour Project, in Saratoga, N.Y., the goal of which is to set off a "contagion of inverse paranoia" who think "the world is out to do them good."

The idea is catching on. Goodman says. Humana Hospitals has enlisted his assistance, and a major medical school has approached him regarding ways to inject humour into its curriculum.

All of which has pitfalls, as Goodman acknowledges. "Let's organise it and kill it," he says, describing the danger of trying to plan humour in an academic or institutional setting.

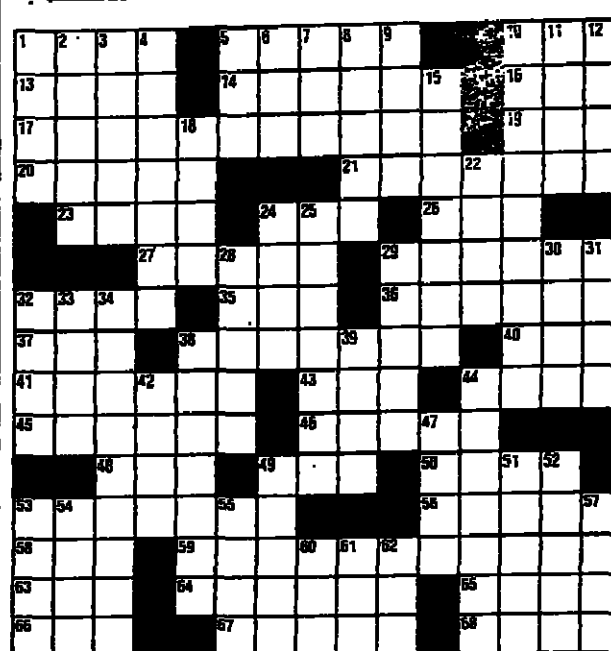
Laugh

Indeed, few things kill a good belly laugh faster than a discussion of its advantageous biochemical properties. And some conference participants saw other causes for concern, such as creeping expert-itis.

Alison Crane notes that humour is, by its very nature, irreverent toward conventional authority. Hummiller wanted to make jokes about the Nazi government illegal, she says.

The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Doggone it!
 - is Born
 - Mummr lovingly
 - Thanks —!
 - Pool members
 - 16th year Latin word
 - Funnel-shaped flower
 - Tear
 - Disgrace
 - Flanist Oscar and family
 - mater
 - Tennis winner
 - Historic time
 - Poet's muse
 - Joins
 - "Shane" star
 - Arrow launcher
 - The way up
 - mode
 - Carrot family member
 - Stratford's prov.
 - Flinches
 - Gibbon
 - Singles
 - Calm and collected
 - "Peer Gynt" author
 - Go astray
 - Latter writer's abbr.
 - Family VIP's
 - Crisp cracker
 - Dexterous
 - Jacques' friend
 - Indelible flower?
 - S.A. resort
 - Hayseeds
 - Engrossed
 - Margret
 - eelson
 - Gooden's turf
 - transport
 - Wild asses
 - Cheese tray item
 - Brisk and cheerful
 - Shore of song
 - Incline
 - Post
 - Teasdale
 - Gemayal of Lebanon
 - Cozy retreat
 - Miss Kett of the comics
 - Neighbor of Aust.
 - Inventor
 - Whitney
 - Literary monogram
 - Overlook
 - Clumsy one's exclamation
 - 15 35 plus 35
 - Time period
 - Operatic highlight
 - Noun suffix
 - 25 Marsh marigold
 - Degrade
 - Consumers
 - Sea bird
 - Concordes: Abbr.
 - Judges' concern
 - "I cannot tell —"
 - Kind of wine or salad
 - Become stony
 - Testing places, for short
 - Golfer's

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
YOU BE THE JURY

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 7 4 2
♥ 5 2
♦ K 5
♣ 8 6 3

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ 7 3
♦ 10 8 6 4
♣ J 7 5 4 2

EAST
♠ A J 10
♥ K J 9 8 6
♦ Q J 9
♣ Q 10

SOUTH
♠ 5 3
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ A 7 3 2
♣ A K 9

The bidding:
East 1♥ South 1NT West 3NT North 3♠
Pass 3NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

You are empanelled to sit on a jury considering this hand from a rubber bridge game. Pass out kudos or brickbats as you see fit, then see if you agree with our awards.

South's no trump overall showed the equivalent of a no trump opening bid. North forced in spades, and South's correction to three no trump ended the auction. Declarer won the heart opening lead and led a spade to the king, which was allowed to hold. Declarer returned to his hand with a heart finesse and led another spade, the queen losing to the ace. Since the defenders still had a spade stopper, declarer was an entry short to set up

and use the long spades, so eight tricks were all he could make. Assess the hand.

First, a small brickbat to North for his bid of three spades. He was not interested in slam, and he had no reason to believe that three no trump would be a better contract than four spades. We would have bid four spades right off, a contract that could not be defeated.

Next, a bouquet to East. His holdup of the ace of spades was sound defense. Had he taken the ace, declarer would have had smooth sailing.

The major culprit on the hand, however, was South. Going down in his contract was inexcusable. All he had to do after winning the first trick was to duck a spade completely. The defense would have been rendered powerless.

Suppose that East wins and shifts to a diamond. Declarer wins in hand and leads a spade to the king. Regardless of whether East takes the ace or holds up, the spade suit is established while the king of diamonds is still in dummy as an entry. Declarer would lose the same two spade tricks he actually lost, but instead of eight tricks, he would have emerged with 11! It is all a matter of when he gives up the tricks.



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
TARA BLOKE EMIT
IDES OILED XENO
DEPARTMENTSTORE
ENS EYES TOWED
MEL'S CARL
FINALE GONE BAG
EDER ERICA ESE
MERCANTILEMARTS
MAO NONES BRET
ELS GRAF SQUARE
PEAS SHUT
APPAL ALAI DOB
DRYBOODSEMPORIA
ZOLA TEPEE JUST
EDEN OASTS OIGEE

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Your mood will have its ups and downs, but you will be able to get on with what has to be done nonetheless. You should have the courage of your convictions. Avoid spending recklessly. Be firm.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should take care that you do not do anything that might give rise to confusion. Try to exercise a little more self-control. Do not allow bobby to become an obsession. Be lenient.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will feel slightly more aggressive and should try to curb this tendency. Make sure you keep your mind on what you are doing at any one time. Do not leave any windows open when you go out. Be generous.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You will be in the right frame of mind to deal with a ticklish problem. Make sure you have got your measurements right. There is no time to lose nor do you have any surplus energies just now. Be moderate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to make good progress with a project you consider most important. You must avoid jumping to conclusions. Think again about something you have been taking for granted. Be sincere.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should listen carefully to what others are saying. Do all you can to avoid exposing yourself to infection. Look out for bad drivers. Be a little more economical.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

This is going to be an interesting day for you. You should not be in such a hurry that you do not do things properly. Avoid making a promise if you do not intend to keep it. Be trustworthy.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You are liable to run out of enthusiasm and should try to take steps to compensate. You should give due regard to a personal matter. Make sure you do not get into serious debt. Be objective.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should do your utmost to rid yourself of some prejudices and resentments. A good talk will help to reassure you. Try not to leave anything to chance and do not trust to luck just now. Be considerate.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

The Moon's influence will help you to avoid falling into a trap. You should not keep things to yourself, nor should you reveal something told to you in strict confidence. Try to ensure that you get good value for money, and give it too. Be resourceful.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will have to be a little more patient. Do not expect others to do just what you would like them to do. Make sure you do not do anything that would cause a friend any embarrassment. Be conciliatory.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

The Moon's influence is liable to make you more nervous. You should avoid flights of fancy. There is no need to be pessimistic, but nor should you be unduly optimistic. Be resolute.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Taiwan sees slower imports of coal and oil in 1988

TAIPEI, March 2. (Reuters): Taiwan will slow down energy imports in 1988 after record purchases of coal and near-record oil imports last year, a government spokesman said today.

Coal imports in 1987 jumped about 31 per cent to a record 14 million tonnes against 10.7 million tonnes in 1986, the spokesman said.

Oil imports rose 7.4 per cent to 20.2 million kilolitres (444.3 million gallons) from 18.8 million kl (413.5 million gallons). Oil imports reached a record 20.4 million kl (448.7 million gallons) in 1984.

Demands

The spokesman, from the Economic Ministry's energy commission, attributed increased demands for energy to high economic performance. Taiwan's gross national product grew 11.04 per cent in 1987.

"We see a moderate rise of imports in both coal and oil this year because of lower GNP growth," he said.

GNP is forecast to grow at about seven per cent in 1988.

Taiwan imports coal mainly from Australia, the United States, South Africa and Canada. Its oil comes from Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Kuwait, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Taiwan has foreign exchange reserves of about \$76 billion, the world's largest after Japan, but produces only a small amount of fuel.

The spokesman said Taiwan's coal production fell to 1.5 million tonnes in 1987 from 1.73 million in 1986. Output is expected to fall further this year.

Soviet economist predicts massive job shifts by year 2000

MINNEAPOLIS, March 2. (Reuters): A leading Soviet economist said today that 16 million Soviets, including 30 to 50 per cent of all government bureaucrats, will be forced to change jobs by the year 2000 as a result of economic reforms.

"By our calculations by the year 2000 about 16 million people will have changed jobs," said Abel Aganbegyan, chief economist of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a key advisor to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said structural changes resulting from Gorbachev's "perestroika" reforms will cause massive worker dislocation.

"Starting in 1989 we're going to take real steps to reform the whole price system of the country," Aganbegyan said, adding the changes would soon affect employment, including the reduction of jobs in local, regional and central governments.

"So we're going to reduce by 30 to 50 per cent the number of bureaucrats working there," he told a Minnesota civic group.

But he added: "We don't think there's going to be any unemployment because there's a tremendous demand for labour throughout the country."

Oil prices tumble

Yamani predicts another energy crisis

LONDON, March 2. (Reuters): Former Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani reappeared in public this week in the role of a harbinger of doom, predicting another energy crisis.

Yamani, in a rare public speech, renewed a theme he regularly dwelt on before he lost his job in October, 1986 — that there must be a dialogue of oil producers and consumers.

"It is only a matter of time before the whole world will be dependent on Gulf oil with all the political difficulties," Yamani told Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs yesterday.

Problems might arise as early as the mid-1990s, he said, adding: "I see no alternative but some sort of dialogue between major consumers and producers."

"Maybe out of that dialogue some sort of international agreement could be evolved to prevent a crisis which would have very serious political consequences as well as financial and economic ones."

But Yamani was pessimistic.

Low

"Energy has a low profile," he said. Political leaders, particularly in democratic countries, were prone to ignore longer term dangers and look only a few years ahead.

The basis of the coming crisis emerged in the 1970s, Yamani said, when nations outside the Organisation of Petroleum

Exporting Countries (Opec) raised their oil output to reduce what they saw as dependence on the organisation.

They were now burning up their oil. But Opec, although at present accounting for only 40 per cent of world output, controlled 83 per cent of all reserves.

The Gulf Opec states alone controlled 70 per cent.

Yamani also spoke about the current oil market, characterised by a glut in which free market quotes have dipped below \$15 a barrel in recent days while Opec struggles to charge a fixed contract price of \$18.

"We have a unique situation," Yamani said. "The least we can call it is chaos. No one can say what the price will be next month."

No Opec country, he explained, was prepared to be a "swing" producer and adjust its output to match demand — a role, analysts say, that Saudi Arabia abandoned in 1985.

The Opec official \$18 price, Yamani said, "is now put on the shelf as long as we don't have someone to protect it."

He said spot prices could dip to \$12 if cash-pinch Opec sellers further increase output. But, if they kept to Opec-assigned quotas, "maybe we will just see seasonal price fluctuations according to seasonal demand changes."

Meanwhile, oil prices tumbled

by as much as \$1 a barrel on world markets yesterday amid a new round of rumours that Opec leader Saudi Arabia is selling its crude at a discount from the organisations' official \$18-a-barrel price.

On the European spot market, where oil is sold to the highest bidder, Britain's North Sea Brent crude nose-dived by \$1 to \$14.20 a barrel.

Lowest

"The pressure on oil prices appears to be coming from Europe, where there's a large supply of Brent and Opec crudes," said Alvin Silber, an analyst at Breen, Murray, Foster Securities Inc. in New York.

The UAE's Dubai Light — the key Opec crude from the Middle East — skidded by 50 cents to \$13.65 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate — the benchmark US crude for immediate delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange — lost 29 cents to \$15.72 a barrel, its lowest finish since it closed at \$15.16 a barrel Dec. 21.

Home-heating oil for April delivery on the Merc plummeted by 1.04 cents to 43.47 cents a gallon and unleaded gasoline dropped 0.93 cent to 45.29 cents.

On the US Gulf coast spot market, West Texas Intermediate slipped by 45 cents to \$15.60 a barrel.

Conoco Inc., the oil industry bellwether on domestic crude

pricing, lowered the price it will pay for West Texas Intermediate by 50 cents to \$15.50 a barrel. Conoco followed the lead of Sun Co., which moved to the \$15.50 mark earlier in the day.

Official US crude prices are determined by how much the refiner is willing to pay at the wellhead as the oil comes out of the ground.

Traders said the selling wave erupted on the international market after reports circulated that Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest and most influential producer, had offered to sell its crude to Japanese clients at a discount.

But Silber and several other analysts dismissed the rumours.

The Saudis are very probably selling at a discount to the Aramco partners but not seemingly discounting into the Japanese or other Far Eastern markets," he said.

Production

Industry sources contend Saudi Arabia has been offering its crude at market-related prices to the four US partners in the Arabian-American Oil Co. — Exxon Corp., Mobil Corp., Texaco Inc. and Chevron Corp. — for several months to retain clients.

Oil prices have been battered since early February when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries boosted its production despite the persistent global oil surplus.

New York-based Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reported Opec has reined in output by about 500,000 barrels to between 17 million and 17.5 million barrels a day in the last week or so in a bid to shore up prices.

But excess Opec supplies have begun arriving in Europe and major refining centres, which has intensified pressure on prices, PIW said.

Non-Opec Egypt, citing the recent price rout on world markets, cut its crude oil exports by 50 cents a barrel for the first half of March in a move that lowered its best Suez Blend grade to \$14 a barrel.

Decline

Hammad Ayyoub, director of sales at the Egyptian Petroleum Authority in Cairo, blamed the oil price decline on a failure by the majority of Opec members to abide by the organisation's \$18-a-barrel benchmark price.

West Texas Intermediate now is at its lowest level on the Merc since late December, when selling drove down oil by several dollars a barrel following Opec's makeshift agreement to rein in output and defend its prices.

Twelve of Opec's 13 members agreed to reduce production to 15.06 million barrels a day for the first half of 1988. But Opec maverick Iraq refused to join the pact and is believed to be producing about 2.3 million barrels a day.

China boosts overseas investment

PEKING, March 2. (Reuters): China announced today a big increase in investment abroad and said it was discussing joint investment with the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

The Economic Daily reported that in 1987 China set up 124 firms overseas with a total capital of \$1.3 billion, of which China's share was 350 million, including projects in gold and iron ore mining, dyeing, rubber and aluminium refining.

China started such investment in 1979 and by the end of last year had set up 855 firms with total capital of \$1.78 billion in 67 countries and regions.

Peking says foreign investment is vital to its strategy of joining the world economy and

making up for years lost during political campaigns inside the country.

The Economic Daily said China was discussing joint investments with the Soviet Union and countries in East Europe and with nations with which it has no diplomatic relations.

In an accompanying editorial, the newspaper said investment abroad was extremely important for opening up China to the outside and taking part in the international economic system.

Capital

This is a line advocated repeatedly since January by Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang who urges a more aggressive role for the country's coastal areas, home to 200 million people, in the world economy.

Zhao argues that China does not have enough capital to modernise these areas on its own and must attract it from abroad through labour-intensive industries that are being abandoned not only by the West but also by Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore.

"Opportunities to develop the areas have been missed in the past," Zhao said. "We cannot allow ourselves to miss this chance again. We should have a sense of urgency."

The Economic Daily said investment abroad was needed to further penetrate world markets, earn foreign exchange, obtain goods and raw materials which China has to import and improve the level of the nation's technology and manpower.

It said nearly 90 per cent of the overseas projects set up last year were in developing countries, a reflection of China's still low technological level, and this trend would continue in the near future.

The projects range from a gold mine and aluminium smelter in Australia to railways, housing estates and bridges in the Middle East and North Africa and financing for the channel tunnel between Britain and France.

The most unusual overseas scheme reported in the official press is a farm in the Australian state of Victoria to be run by a firm from Jiangsu collectively owned by peasants which will sell fish, oranges, apples and vegetables to the housewives of Melbourne.

Yugoslavia's consumer prices up

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 2. (AP): Yugoslavia's February consumer prices rose by 5.9 per cent over last month's mark despite a partial price freeze imposed by the government last fall, an official report said yesterday.

The cost of living in February this year was 5.2 per cent higher compared with the same period last year, and the month's index was posted at 157.3 per cent over February 1987, the report of the Federal Statistics Bureau said.

In an attempt to contain spiralling inflation running at some 170 per cent, the Yugoslav government last November introduced a six-month price and wage freeze.

Down

The cabinet of Premier Branko Mikulic hoped to bring inflation down to under 70 per cent this year.

But because of acute shortages of some basic consumer staples following the government freeze, prices for some goods had to be unfrozen.

Higher prices for medical drugs, washing powder, electric appliances, automobiles and other products caused the sharp rise in February, the bureau said.

Consumer prices rose by 9.3 per cent this year to date.

The Belgrade daily Borba quoted federal market inspector Pavel Dolanc as saying earlier this month that companies found loopholes in the law by making minor changes in marketing old products and launching them as new articles — with considerably higher prices.

Dolanc said the price law has been "violated daily."

Conable calls for enlarged lending capacity

AN enlarged World Bank capital base will enable the institution in coming years to strengthen its work in support of economic policy reforms and the high-priority investments essential to secure growth and development, according to Bank President Barber B. Conable.

In a speech in Washington this week, Conable sought to answer the critical questions: Why will the World Bank need a capital increase in the near future? What will be the priorities for the bank with its expanded capital base?

"We have concluded that we must expand our lending to support the urgent and evident needs of our member countries," he asserted. "It is the analysis of those needs that now drives us forward."

Conable enumerated the economic considerations that call for a capital increase:

● the extraordinary difficult circumstances of the developing countries have demanded painful economic reforms which, in turn, require external advice and financial support;

● the poor must be protected from the potential social costs of economic reform programmes;

● continuing absolute poverty in many parts of the world needs to be alleviated; and

● urgent action is required against the pressures of population and development on the environment.

Conable outlined the Bank's priorities in response to these challenges. He said the bank will:

● increase efforts to ensure that adjustment enhances, rather than retards, prospects for the poor;

● expand significantly its work in the field of development and the environment;

● boost its support for economic policy reform and adjustment;

● continue significant lending in support of basic infrastructure development; and

● make an important contribution in assisting highly indebted nations to regain creditworthiness.

Experts

He also announced the Bank would seek to strengthen its work in the area of stimulating private sector contributions to development and that a high level panel

of experts has just been formed to develop recommendations on this front.

On the debt crisis, the World Bank's President stressed the need for determined, constructive efforts at securing solutions between the governments of the industrial and the developing countries, the commercial creditors and the multilateral institutions.

Conable underlined the vital requirement of determined adjustment programmes for a restoration of creditworthiness and noted that the debtor nations will need to have the keys to reform and to capital in seeking the way out of their difficulties.

He said he will seek to facilitate the debt workout process between creditors and debtors.

Private investment in plant and machinery likely to rise

Japan's rapid growth will offset deflationary effects of US slowdown

DESPITE the Dow's massive 140 point drop on January 8, Wall Street registered a modest rise taking January as a whole. The Standard and Poors Composite index gained 4 per cent during the month.

Leadership in the US equity market has shifted several times in recent weeks. Towards the end of 1987, cyclical stocks (which had been marked down heavily during the crash) staged a significant rally.

In January they retreated once more: as investors became increasingly concerned that the US economy might be drifting into recession.

Recently published statistics do point to a slowdown in the economy in the first half of 1988. Markets have focused in particular on the initial estimates for fourth quarter GNP.

Although these show 4.2 per cent growth in the economy as a whole, the bulk of this (3.6 per cent) reflects a massive rise in inventories.

The implication is that these might have to be drawn down, and new orders scaled back, in early 1988.

Nevertheless Scimitar believes that those predicting a recession in 1988 will be proved wrong. Consumer spending will clearly be weak.

However this will be offset to

some extent by a better trade performance and, perhaps, some recovery in investment.

Although the economy may slow significantly in the first quarter, it is hard to see the authorities not taking stiff remedial action if it does. 1988 is an election year. Baker at the Treasury wants to see Bush elected President. Greenspan at the Federal Reserve Board would certainly want to see a Republican elected. So also would the authorities in Bonn and Tokyo. If the economy looks like faltering badly, interest rates will be cut likely.

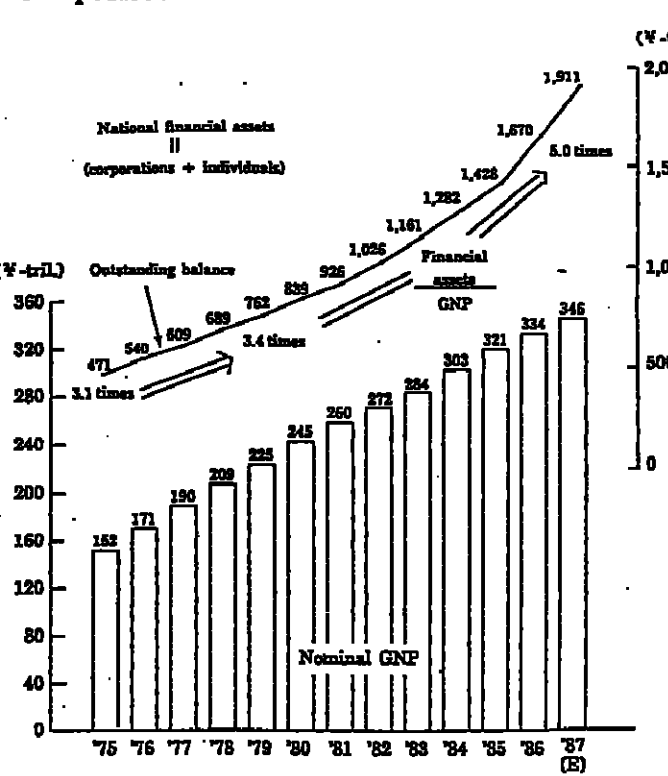
Although the immediate outlook is unpromising, we believe that stocks could have a good run in 1988.

With the consumer retrenching, the trade numbers should improve. This will take the pressure off the dollar and assist a fall in interest rates.

Markets

However, while the economy can be kept afloat in 1988, the newly elected President will probably want to start taking big steps to cut the budget deficit in 1989. But 1989 is still some way down the road. Right now, we have been reducing some of our more defensive positions and are looking to buy some 'cyclicals' at slightly lower prices than those on offer at the end of January.

Comparison of National Financial Assets to GNP



Scimitar's favoured markets — the UK and Spain — both rose in January.

In the UK, the Financial Times All Share index rose 5.2 per cent. In Spain, the Madrid Stock Exchange index rose 9.8 per cent. In contrast, the larger mainland

European markets had another dismal month. In Germany, the Commerzbank index fell 7 per cent. The French CAC General index fell 10.5 per cent. The Italian BCI index fell 4 per cent. The dollar's rally exacerbated these declines in terms of the US

World Business Summary

Politicians promise to fight debt accord

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 2. (Reuters): Leaders of Brazil's ruling Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) said today a draft debt accord was not in the country's long-term interest.

"This accord makes no sense," PMDB deputy and economist Fernando Gasparian told Reuters. "This is being called new money, but it cannot be considered new money if it is being lent to make old interest payments." Banking sources have praised the agreement, which aims to put Brazil back on a track towards paying off the developing world's largest debt, totalling \$114 billion, following a 12-month moratorium on interest payments.

But PMDB members said they were examining how Brazil's Congress could block the agreement, which would include a loan of \$5.8 billion from the country's major banks as part of the refinancing accord on Sunday. PMDB senator Severo Gomes told Reuters that lawmakers were studying "what would be the best road" to try to block the accord in Congress. "Rejoining the international financial community simply means submitting to its dictates again, with no real gain for Brazil," he told Reuters. Lawmakers also criticised the finance minister's aim of reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to end a three-year standoff with the lending agency.

The IMF doesn't want an austere wage policy, it wants people to starve. Its conditions (for lending money) will destroy our economy," Gasparian said.

The PMDB, which includes left-wing and centrist factions, holds a majority in both Houses of Congress and all but one of the state governorships. President Jose Sarney is in the party's conservative wing but is not the party leader. In the refinancing deal Brazil agreed to make \$3 billion in interest payments it missed during the twelve months the freeze on payments was in effect.

The country also committed itself to paying another \$700 million to cover interest payments due in January and February and to pay part of the roughly \$5.5 billion it owes in interest coming due this year.

Nigeria signs safeguards agreement with IAEA

VIENNA, March 2. (Opecna): Nigeria yesterday signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thus completing formalities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The country signed the nuclear non-proliferation in 1968, but the safeguards clause is a separate agreement under which IAEA is entrusted with the "verification procedure" ascertaining peaceful uses only, an official explained. The safeguards agreement was signed by Prof. Emmanuel Emovon, Minister of Science and Technology and Dr Haus Blix, director general of IAEA.

The minister said at the ceremony that Nigeria identified itself with nations committed to the peaceful application of nuclear energy "towards ventures that protect and prolong human life rather than those that destroy it."

Stressing that Nigeria was committed to world peace which it would do everything to promote, the minister pointed out that nuclear technology could be harnessed to solve basic human problems such as food production, food storage and preservation and health care delivery.

He urged the superpowers to devote the valuable resources now being expended on nuclear and other armaments to assisting poor countries to overcome their development problems and ensure healthy economic growth. He expressed Nigeria's appreciation to IAEA for its cooperation, technical assistance, equipment and training.

The IAEA director general expressed his delight at Nigeria's signing of the safeguards agreement, as part of the non-proliferation treaty, to which there are now 137 signatories. He pledged the agency's continued cooperation and collaboration with Nigeria, noting that Monday's agreement would facilitate the agency's assistance to the country.

US machine tool orders up

WASHINGTON, March 2. (Xinhua): New orders for US-made machine tools jumped by 23.7 per cent in January, propelled by increased exports and large buying in wide range of domestic industries, the US National Machine Tool Builders Association reported today. The January advance followed a 76.7 per cent surge in December and doubled the amount in January of last year, the association's monthly report said. Until last fall's upturn, machine tool orders had been disappointing for more than two years.

The recent gain indicated in part an increase in capital spending, said some analysts. However, they said the results also reflected the weaker dollar, which has made American-made machine tools less expensive for customers abroad and foreign-made products less competitive in the United States. They believe that the federal policies requiring some US government agencies to buy more domestic machine tool products are also having a positive effect. Machine tools are power-driven devices that cut or shape metal parts. Economists consider their sales to be a major indicator of capital spending by the makers of such metal products as automobiles, airplanes and other manufactured goods. As the dollar is sharply lower against most major currencies, "more American orders are staying home and going to American companies," said James A. Gray, president of the association.

"With foreign manufacturers no longer benefiting from an overvalued dollar, we are also very competitive in price," he added.

Venezuela to host oil seminar

CARACAS, March 2. (Opecna): The fourth symposium on oil exploration in the Andean sub-region of South America will be opened here on March 13 by Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti.

The four-day meeting, organised by the Venezuelan Society of Geologists, the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), the Venezuelan state oil company, will be attended by about 250 oil experts and geologists.

Key speakers at the meeting include Wagner Freire, director of Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil company, Marcel Irijoeyen of Exxon Argentina and Norman Foster, president-elect of the American Association of Geologists.

Representatives of PDVSA and its affiliates Corpoven, Intervip, Lagoven and Maraven are scheduled to present 15 papers on the technical aspects of exploration activities. During the meeting a roundtable discussion on exploration policies will be held with panelists from Venezuela, Canada, Colombia and Mexico.

Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Britain, Scotland, Mexico and Venezuela are scheduled to attend.

Hong Kong's trade keeps rising

HONG KONG, March 2. (Xinhua): Hong Kong's trade value continued to grow substantially in January this year though increase of domestic exports became comparatively moderate, local newspapers reported here today. Domestic exports in January amounted to 16.4 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.23 billion), indicating a 17.2 per cent increase over the same period of 1987, while re-exports jumped 53 per cent to just over 18.3 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.35 billion), according to the latest official statistics. They resulted in a 33.7 per cent growth in terms of total exports. The Census and Statistics Department of the Hong Kong government reported recently that imports in January came to 33.1 billion Hong Kong dollars, representing a 41 per cent rise over January 1987.

(Continued on Page 12)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 3-4, 1988

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEE LFE	263/0
ADT LTD	115/0
ALD LYONS	372/0
ANSTRAD	160/0
ARGILL GP	204.5
ASDA HFI	174.0
BAA PP	103/0
BTR	264/0
BAT INDS	445/0
BARCLAYS	508/0
BASS	825.0
BEAZER	207.0
BEECHAM	467.0
BET ORD	245/0
BICC PLC	342/0
BLUE ARW	108/0
BLUE CIRC	448/0
BOC GP	412.0
BOOTS CO	225.0
BPP INDS	294.0
BR CONN	298/0
BR AIRWAY	174/0
BR AEROSP	340/0
BR GAS PP	138/0
B.P.	250/0
B.P.-NEW	64/0
BR TELCOM	248/0
BRITOL	497.0
BUNZL	175/0
BURMAN OL	498/0
BURTON	243/0
CABLESWIR	360/0
CADBURYS	271/0
COATS VVY	270/0
COMM UNI	340.0
CONS GOLD	812.0
COOKSONS	550/0
COURTAULD	322/0
DALGETY	304.0
DEE CP	185.0
DIXONS	181/0
ENG CHINA	410.0
ENTER OIL	295.0
FERRANTI	82.0
FISONS	247/0
GEN ACCID	890.0
GEN ELEC	159.0
GLAXO	075/0
GRANADA	325.0
GLOBE	142/0
GRAND MET	487.0
GUS A	100/0
GUARD RYL	898/0
GOI	329.0
GUINNESS	313.0
HMMERSN A	540.0
HANSON	142/0
HUKER SID	491/0
HILLSDOWN	292/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	369/0	370/0
AMT NEW	254/0	256/0
APV PLC	130/0	129/0
ARONSON	118/0	119/0
AAR HOLF	274/0	273/0
ADDISON G	100/0	100/0
ADVEST GP	316/0	316/0
ALEX WRIK	176/0	177/0
ALLIANCE	807/0	808/0
ALL COLL	131/0	130/0
ALLD PLAN	52/0	53/0
ANARI PLC	169/0	169/0
AMEC PLC	349/0	348/0
AMER TRUS	118/0	119/0
AMERSHAM	489/0	490/0
ANGLIA TV	429/0	428/0
ANSBACHER	67/0	68/0
U-APP HOL	310/0	308/0
APPLEYARD	387/0	387/0
APRICOT	108/0	109/0
ARMSTRONG	148/0	148/0
ANGLO O'S	393/0	
AQUAS. A.	80/0	80/0
ASHLEY L	118/0	118/0
ATWOODS	288/0	288/0
AUTO SEC	239/0	240/0
AVIS EUR	315/0	316/0
AVON RUBB	631/0	630/0
BSS INTL	67/0	66/0
BAILL JAP	486/0	486/0
BANKER IT	68/0	68/0
BAK OF SCO	573/0	574/0
BARKER DO	152/0	152/0
BARRT DEV	190/0	190/0
B. WEINILL	155/0	156/0
BEJAM GP	177/0	176/0
BELHAVEN	45/0	45/0
BELLWAY	225/0	225/0
BENROSE	213/0	213/0
BENLOX HD	446/0	446/0
BUNNETT +F	34/0	35/0
BENTALLS	192/0	192/0
BERISFORD	304/0	302/0
BERKELEY	295/0	295/0
BRKLY HAY	25/0	25/0
BLCK LE 2	21/0	21/0
BOASE MAS	283/0	282/0
BOODINGTO	145/0	145/0
BOOKER PL	390/0	392/0
BORTHWICK	48/0	48/0
BOATHORPE	367/0	366/0
BOWTHORPE	179/0	181/0
BRAWMER	222/0	223/0
BRENT CHE	132/0	132/0
BRENT WKR	335/0	335/0
BRIDON	146/0	146/0
BRITANNIA	013/0	015/0
BR ASSETS	67/0	67/0
BR.LND CO	273/0	273/0
BR VITA	434/0	435/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	369/0	370/0
AMT NEW	254/0	256/0
APV PLC	130/0	129/0
ARONSON	118/0	119/0
AAR HOLF	274/0	273/0
ADDISON G	100/0	100/0
ADVEST GP	316/0	316/0
ALEX WRIK	176/0	177/0
ALLIANCE	807/0	808/0
ALL COLL	131/0	130/0
ALLD PLAN	52/0	53/0
ANARI PLC	169/0	169/0
AMEC PLC	349/0	348/0
AMER TRUS	118/0	119/0
AMERSHAM	489/0	490/0
ANGLIA TV	429/0	428/0
ANSBACHER	67/0	68/0
U-APP HOL	310/0	308/0
APPLEYARD	387/0	387/0
APRICOT	108/0	109/0
ARMSTRONG	148/0	148/0
ANGLO O'S	393/0	
AQUAS. A.	80/0	80/0
ASHLEY L	118/0	118/0
ATWOODS	288/0	288/0
AUTO SEC	239/0	240/0
AVIS EUR	315/0	316/0
AVON RUBB	631/0	630/0
BSS INTL	67/0	66/0
BAILL JAP	486/0	486/0
BANKER IT	68/0	68/0
BAK OF SCO	573/0	574/0
BARKER DO	152/0	152/0
BARRT DEV	190/0	190/0
B. WEINILL	155/0	156/0
BEJAM GP	177/0	176/0
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BELLWAY	225/0	225/0
BENROSE	213/0	213/0
BENLOX HD	446/0	446/0
BUNNETT +F	34/0	35/0
BENTALLS	192/0	192/0
BERISFORD	304/0	302/0
BERKELEY	295/0	295/0
BRKLY HAY	25/0	25/0
BLCK LE 2	21/0	21/0
BOASE MAS	283/0	282/0
BOODINGTO	145/0	145/0
BOOKER PL	390/0	392/0
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BRAWMER	222/0	223/0
BRENT CHE	132/0	132/0
BRENT WKR	335/0	335/0
BRIDON	146/0	146/0
BRITANNIA	013/0	015/0
BR ASSETS	67/0	67/0
BR.LND CO	273/0	273/0
BR VITA	434/0	435/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	369/0	370/0
AMT NEW	254/0	256/0
APV PLC	130/0	129/0
ARONSON	118/0	119/0
AAR HOLF	274/0	273/0
ADDISON G	100/0	100/0
ADVEST GP	316/0	316/0
ALEX WRIK	176/0	177/0
ALLIANCE	807/0	808/0
ALL COLL	131/0	130/0
ALLD PLAN	52/0	53/0
ANARI PLC	169/0	169/0
AMEC PLC	349/0	348/0
AMER TRUS	118/0	119/0
AMERSHAM	489/0	490/0
ANGLIA TV	429/0	428/0
ANSBACHER	67/0	68/0
U-APP HOL	310/0	308/0
APPLEYARD	387/0	387/0
APRICOT	108/0	109/0
ARMSTRONG	148/0	148/0
ANGLO O'S	393/0	
AQUAS. A.	80/0	80/0
ASHLEY L	118/0	118/0
ATWOODS	288/0	288/0
AUTO SEC	239/0	240/0
AVIS EUR	315/0	316/0
AVON RUBB	631/0	630/0
BSS INTL	67/0	66/0
BAILL JAP	486/0	486/0
BANKER IT	68/0	68/0
BAK OF SCO	573/0	574/0
BARKER DO	152/0	152/0
BARRT DEV	190/0	190/0
B. WEINILL	155/0	156/0
BEJAM GP	177/0	176/0
BELHAVEN	45/0	45/0
BELLWAY	225/0	225/0
BENROSE	213/0	213/0
BENLOX HD	446/0	446/0
BUNNETT +F	34/0	35/0
BENTALLS	192/0	192/0
BERISFORD	304/0	302/0
BERKELEY	295/0	295/0
BRKLY HAY	25/0	25/0
BLCK LE 2	21/0	21/0
BOASE MAS	283/0	282/0
BOODINGTO	145/0	145/0
BOOKER PL	390/0	392/0
BORTHWICK	48/0	48/0
BOATHORPE	367/0	366/0
BOWTHORPE	179/0	181/0
BRAWMER	222/0	223/0
BRENT CHE	132/0	132/0
BRENT WKR	335/0	335/0
BRIDON	146/0	146/0
BRITANNIA	013/0	015/0
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LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	369/0	370

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 3-4, 1988

International Bond Highlights

Frankfurt — Deutsche Bank AG said it is lead-managing a bullet 150 mln mark Eurobond for Koninklijke Nederlandse Hoogovens En Staalfabrieken NV. The 6-3/8 pct bond is priced at 99-3/4. (RTTB 1006)

Zurich — Zurich Insurance Co is launching a 250 mln Swiss franc 2-1/4 pct, 6-3/4-year bond with warrants at par, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (RTWT 1620)

Zurich — Japan's Mitsui Trust and Banking Co Ltd is launching twin 100 mln Swiss franc issues of convertible five-year bonds and notes with an indicated 7/8 pct coupon and par pricing, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (RTTA 0958)

London — The coupon on the 100 mln dir, five year equity warrant Eurobond for Nippon Sanso K.K. has been cut to 4-1/2 pct from the indicated 4-7/8 pct, lead manager Yamaichi International (Europe) Ltd. This is the lowest coupon since the Japanese equity warrant market reopened in January. (RTTY 1236)

London — Fighter Two Ltd, a sole purpose company incorporated in the Cayman Islands, is issuing a 70 mln dir floating rate note due May 22, 1991 paying 23 basis points over the six month London interbank offered rate and priced at 100.10 pct, lead manager New Japan Securities Ltd said. (RTZS 0330)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 9 8-3/4	9 8-7/8	9 5-16 3/16
FFY 3 25/35	3 35/65	3 35/65
PAR 7-5/16 3/8	7-1/4 3/8	7-3/8 1/2
ZUR 1/8 3/8	1-1/8 1-3/8	1-5/8 1-7/8
BRX 7.05	6-1/16 3/4	6-1/16 3/4
ROM 10 10-1/2	10-7/8 11-3/8	10-7/8 11-3/8
AMS 3-3/4 3-7/8	3-7/8 4-0/0	3-15/16 4-1/16
TOK 315000 5625	3.8750 9375	3.7500 8125
ECU 6.06 6.31	6.06 6.18	6.31 6.43

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KID interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4-5/16	4-3/8
3 months	4-1/2	4-11/16
6 months	4-1/2	4-11/16
1 year	4-11/16	5-1/8

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	65	63.50	64.50	MICO	510	515	507.50
ACC	140	147	144	GRASH	32	32.25	31	MUKAND	79.50	78.50
ASIA PAINT	147.50	143.75	146.25	ESPC	85	85.50	85.50	NOCIL	440	430
BAJAJ AUTO	395	397.50	395	WIND LEVER	96	96	95	OKAY	22.50	22.50
BAR. RAYON	162.50	165	157.50	HINDALCO	122	122.50	121	PEICO	27.50	27.50
BOM. DYING	127.50	128.50	130	HINDCOBA	77.50	75	73.75	PRA. AUTO	25.50	25.25
BR. BOND	80.50	79	80	HINDMOTOR	18	17.50	18	RAYMOND	49	46.50
BSE INDEX	411.22	406.05	403.50	IND ORE	19.50	18	18.75	RELIANCE	88	86
CENTURYSPG	685	695	695	INDRAGON	51	50.50	49	SIEMENS	67	66
COLGATE	182.50	193.75	190	INDROL	172.50	168.75	170	SPIC	30.50	31
DEEPAKERT	39	38	40	ITC	32	31	32	STOWILLS	235	230
EL. HOTEL	39	38	40	JKSYNTH	55.50	56	54.50	TATA PUR	185	185
ESKAYEF	202.50	207.50	201.25	L AND T	79	80	78	TATACHEM	63.50	62.50
ESSAR	18	18	17	MAHINDRA	55.50	54	54	TELCO	347.50	355
GAR. POLY	80	79	78.50	MASTERSHR	9.25	9	9.19	TISCO	585	590
GE. SHIP	23.50	23.25	23	MATHER PL	99	98	97.50	VOLTA	255	252.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	227.2	229.0
ALLIANZ VR	1370.0	1373.0
BAJAZ AUTO	184.5	183.0
BASF	244.6	246.5
BAYER	264.5	267.0
BAYER HYP	348.0	348.5
BAYER VER	340.0	339.5
BBC	309.5	308.0
BHF	327.0	329.0
BHW	527.5	532.0
CHENIE-VER	0	120.0
COMMERZB	231.0	233.5
COMIT BLM	232.9	234.0
DAI NIP	695.5	690.0
DAI NIP SC	435.0	435.0
DLW	317.5	316.0
DRESNER	248.0	248.5
FAZ INDEX	456.83	458.95
GOLDSCHMID	237.0	236.0
GUTENHOFF	0	0
HARPENER	390.0	395.0
HOECHST AG	254.2	257.0
HOESCH	109.5	112.5
HORTEN	175.0	175.0
HUSSEL HLD	434.0	434.0
KALI SALZ	143.0	144.1
KARSTADT	420.5	421.5
KAUFHOFF	372.5	377.0
KLOECK H	94.0	95.0
KLOECK W	0	67.5
LINDE	565.0	570.0
LUFTHANSA	142.0	143.0
MAN	157.5	158.8
MANHESMAN	119.8	121.8
MERCEDES	549.0	548.0
METALLGES	221.0	219.5
NIXDORF PF	551.5	550.0
NORSK HYD	46.60	46.50
PHILIP KOM	646.0	644.0
PORSCHE	466.0	465.5
PREUSSAG	128.0	127.0
PWA	196.0	198.0
RHEIN	204.5	206.0
RHEIN P	198.7	201.0
RHEINMETAL	255.0	263.0
SALAMANDER	262.5	263.0
SCHERING	437.5	442.0
SEL	313.5	320.0
SIEMENS	383.5	387.5
THYSEN	123.5	124.7
WARTA	254.5	256.0
VEBA	259.5	261.2
VEW	163.5	163.1
VOLKSWAGEN	249.5	250.8

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	13.90	14.00
CHUNG K	7.25	7.20
CHINA GAS	16.10	16.20
CHINA L-P	18.30	18.40
CHINA MOTOR	17.60	17.60
COSMO PFG	4.30	4.30
EVERGO IND	.32	.32
FAR EAST C	.72	.72
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	8.60	8.70
H S INDEX	462.13	454.71
HANG LUNG	4.62	4.62
HANG SENG	30.25	29.80
HAW PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	7.80	7.75
HK KOWLOON	6.45	6.55
HK LAND CO	7.60	7.30
HK SHAN BK	7.25	7.30
HK SHAN HT	3.90	3.90
HK TELE CO	7.35	7.20
HUTCH WHAM	7.95	7.95
IND EO PAC	7.15	7.00
JARDINE M	11.50	11.50
KOHLON M	10.60	10.70
NEW WORLD	8.40	8.55
PAUL Y CON	1.66	1.63
REALTY DEV	5.30	5.30
S H K CO	1.72	1.75
S H K PROP	9.30	9.15
SINE DARBY	1.43	1.48
STELUX MFG	5.40	5.45
SWIRE PAC	16.40	16.50
T V B CO	14.00	14.00
TAI CHEUNG	3.27	3.27
UNION BANK	1.63	1.56
WOCK HAD	0	7.25
WOCK HARI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	2.90	2.92

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3400	3400
AKAI ELEC	535	529
AKI	1020	990
ASAHI GAS	1970	1880
ASAHI OPT	585	588
BANK TOKYO	1550	1540
BRIDGESTON	1430	1400
CANON	1180	1160
CASIO COMP.	1270	1250
CHUGAI MNG	0	0
CITIZEN W	640	620
D-ICHI KAN	3200	3220
DAI NIP IK	815	796
DAI NIP PT	2600	2600
DAI NIP SC	980	975
DAI NIP TO	484	481
DAICEL	810	820
DATTA SEC	2760	2710
EBRA MFG	865	865
EISAI	2490	2490
FUJITSU	1540	1530
FUJI BANK	3470	3460
FUJI PHOTO	4140	4080
FUJISAMA	2030	2000
FUJITA CP	755	737
HITACHI	1370	1320
HONDA MOT	1560	1530
ISBTAN	1380	1400
ITO YOKADO	4200	4200
JAP SYN RU	1080	1110
JAPAN AIR	15000	14400
JAPAN MET	450	457
KAJIMA	1630	1580
KANSAI EL	3050	3020
KAO SOAP	1960	1930
KAWASAKI H	340	330
KAWASAKI S	383	385
KIRIN BEV	2320	2310
KONATSU	625	625
KUBOTA LTD.	696	679
KYOCERA	5420	5400
MAKITA EL	1870	1880
MARUI	3090	3080
MATSUDA EI	241.	2360
MATSUDA EL	2370	2270
MEIJI SEIK	958	948
MITSUB CP	1260	1280
MITSUB EL	669	651
MITSUB HYV	2300	2190
MITSUBI CO	789	785
MITSUBISHI	1580	1560
MITSUBI EL	1260	1310
NICHITON	1320	1320
NIKON CHMT	873	850
NIKKO SEC	2120	2100
NIP ELEC	2090	2040
NIP KKKOM	361	353
NIP OIL	1220	1220
NIP STEEL	441	437
NIP YUSEN	602	587
NIS MOTOR	877	866
NOMURA SEC	4000	3960
ORBA CO	1000	972
OLYMPUS	1120	1140
PENTA OCH	896	882
PIONEER	3170	2950
REINOM	820	820
RICOH	1280	1250
SAIKYO ELEC	526	528
SEIYU ST	2450	2450
SEIKIUI PB	1960	1930
SHARP	1000	1020
SHISEIDO	1710	1710
SUNY	5000	4940
SUMITOMO	1130	1110
TAISEI	990	950
TAISHO MRN	1210	1200
TAKEDA CH	3200	3200
TEIJIN	820	813
TOK NEW IX	107.35	89.11
TOKIO MRN	2100	2080
TOKYO ELEC	1170	1150
TOKYO GAS	1160	1150
TOKYO PWR	6070	5880
TORAY IND	824	825
TOSHIBA EL	2300	2290
TOYO KODGY	447	442
TOYOTA MOT	2310	2240
YAMAHA	1110	1090
YAMAICHI	2110	2080
YAMAMUCHI	4110	4080
YAMAZAKI	1530	1530

Tokyo Stock Market Report

DOLLAR CLOSURES BARELY CHANGED IN QUIET TOKYO

TOKYO, MARCH 2, REUTER - THE DOLLAR CLOSED BARELY CHANGED AGAINST MAJOR CURRENCIES, AFTER STICKING TO AN EXTREMELY NARROW RANGE OF 0.15 YEN ALL DAY DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT MARKET-MOVING FACTORS, DEALERS SAID.

THE DOLLAR WAS TRAPPED BETWEEN STRONG SELLING INTEREST AMONG COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AROUND A CHART POINT OF 128.60 YEN AND BUYING INTEREST ON SHORT-COVERING BELOW 128.50, AS WELL AS FEAR OF CENTRAL BANK INTERVENTION BELOW THAT LEVEL, THEY SAID.

"THE MARKET WAS COMPLETELY DEAD," A U.S. BANK DEALER SAID.

THE DOLLAR CLOSED AT 128.47 YEN AND 1.6875/80 MARKS AGAINST 128.35/40 AND 1.6865/70 IN NEW YORK.

SECURITIES HOUSE, PHARMACEUTICAL, RAILWAY/BUS, NON-LIFE AIRLINE, REAL ESTATE, ELECTRONIC, CONSTRUCTION, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, CREDIT/LEASE, COMMUNICATIONS AND BANK ISSUES ROSE.

ROLLING STOCK, RETAIL, OIL, SERVICE AND SOME MANUFACTURING SHARES LOST.

DESPITE A SLIGHT DROP ON MONDAY WHICH SNAPPED TOKYO'S 13-DAY BULL RUN, AND THE FACT THAT "THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT THE MARKET WOULD BE WEAKER THIS WEEK," THE MARKET HAD MANAGED TO GENERATE ENOUGH ENERGY TO CONTINUE RISING, A BROKER SAID.

TODAY'S HUGE VOLUME MATCHES TUESDAY'S.

"I THINK THAT BELIEF (THAT THE MARKET WILL HIT NEW HIGHS) IS WIDELY HELD," SAID AKIO ISHIDA, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER AT YASUDA TRUST FUND. "AT THE EARLIEST, END OF MARCH, OR ON THE LATE SIDE, APRIL."

BUT THERE IS SOME GROWING CAUTION AS THE MARKET CHALKS UP SUCH HEAVY DAILY TURNOVER, BROKERS SAID. TREMENDOUS VOLUME GENERATED IN LARGE CAPITAL ISSUES COULD INDICATE A LATE CYCLE OF AN UPWARD MARKET.

"WHEN TRADING EXCEEDS AROUND TWO BILLION SHARES FOR A FEW DAYS, THIS MAY MEAN THE MARKET IS REACHING A SHORT TERM PEAK," SAID ANALYST MOTOYASU TAHARA OF SCHROEDERS SECURITIES.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 2, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED HIGHER ON GENERALLY IMPROVED SENTIMENT, BUT PROFIT-TAKING TRIMMED THE GAINS IN THE FINAL MINUTES OF THE SESSION, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ENDED THE DAY 7.42 POINTS HIGHER AT 2,462.13 AND THE HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 4.57 TO 1,612.51.

TRADING REMAINED ACTIVE WITH TURNOVER OF 984.65 MLN H.K. DLS AGAINST 1.07 BILLION ON TUESDAY.

BROKERS SAID SENTIMENT WAS FURTHER BOOSTED BY THE 1988/89 BUDGET PRESENTED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DURING LATE TRADING, BUT SOME INVESTORS CASHED IN THEIR PROFITS BEFORE THE MARKET CLOSED.

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSG	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.43	2.43
AL NIMME MINERALS	0.79	0.79	JOR PAPER CARDBRGG	3.00	3.00
AL-NISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.40	2.40
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.34	1.38	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.17	1.18
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.90	1.90	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	2.15	2.05
ARAB BANK	118.5	118.5	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	3.00	3.65
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.32	4.35	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.66	0.66
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48	JOR SECURITY. CORP	0.91	0.91
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	1.00	JOR TIMBER PROCES.	0.17	0.17
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.95	0.96	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.32	1.32
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.95	0.96	JOR WORSTED MTL	4.50	4.50
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.10	7.10
ARAB JOR/INVT/BK	2.09	2.10	JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.90	5.90
ARAB PAPER COM/TRA	0.34	0.35	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	1.85	1.85
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.09	2.12	JOR. KAW. CO. AGRA.	1.00	1.00
ARAB PHARMA/CHIEF	0.76	0.75	JORDAN BREWERY	3.65	3.65
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JORDAN DAIRY	1.02	1.02
BANK OF JORDAN	16.30	16.31	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.21	1.20
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.93	0.93
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00	30.00	JORDAN GULF REAL	0.33	0.33
DAR AL SHAAS PRESS	0.40	0.40	JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85	13.95
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	1.47	1.47	JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.79	1.79
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.44	JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.60	1.60
DEVELOP/INVT/FAS.	0.62	0.62	JORDAN TANNING	1.92	1.90
FINANCE/CRDIT/COR	0.60	0.61	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.72	0.74
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.34	1.33	MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	60.00	60.00
GENERAL MINING	1.50	1.50	MIDDLE EAST INS.	0.60	0.60
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15	1.20	MATERIALS RESEARCH	0.60	0.60
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.72	0.72	INT. INVEST CO	1.60	1.60
INDSTR. DEVLPT BNK	1.31	1.31	NAT/CLERK/REF	0.28	0.28
INDSTR./COMM/AGR.	1.51	1.50	NATIONAL ALHIA INS	1.29	1.28
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	1.49	1.50	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.80	0.81
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	0.64	0.64	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.80	0.81
INTERN. COM/INV	0.96	0.96	NATIONAL STEEL	2.75	2.73
JORD. ELECTRICITY	0.64	0.64	NTNSHIPPING LINE	0.87	0.87
JORDANIAN HOUSE	0.64	0.64	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	3.50	3.20	PETRA BANK	2.05	2.05
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.28	PETRA ENTERPRISES	0.67	0.67
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.50	13.55	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50	0.50
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.05	1.04	PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.69	0.68
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.07	1.05	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80	0.80
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.43	0.42
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.48	1.48	SPINNING WEAVING	0.93	0.93
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.20	THE HOUSING BANK	1.60	1.60
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.03	1.03	UNITED INSURANCE	2.50	2.50
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50	UNISAL CHEN. IND	1.85	1.81
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.65	1.72	UNIVERSITY	0.73	0.73
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	WADKOW INDUSTRIES	0.67	0.66
JOR LINE AND BRICK	0.22	0.24	YARMOUK INSURANCES	1.47	1.47
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	2.43	2.43			

Comprehensive solution needed for Kuwait Stock Market

No steady upward movement in share prices: Saadoun

By M C Bose

THE chairman of the Al Shall Economic Consultants Jassem Al Saadoun has announced that there had been no increase in the prices of shares at the Kuwait Stock Market during the first two months of this year. In fact, Al Saadoun added, the index of Kuwaiti shares dropped by 10 per cent while that of Gulf shares dropped by four per cent during the months of January and February.

Drop

Saadoun said that the quantity and value of shares traded during these two months at the Stock Market was less than half the value of those traded the first two months of last year. He added that the same is true even if the quantities are compared with shares traded in November and December of last year.

Saadoun attributed this drop

to several factors, including the offering of government treasury bills and bonds, the government's inability to repeat last year's effort of splitting the value of Kuwaiti shares and the low profits distributed on shares for 1987 when compared to the value of the shares.

On the average, he said, the yield of Kuwaiti shares for last year was only 2.1 per cent, while in February it was 3.7 per cent for US shares and 4.3 per cent for British shares.

He added that the government's financial weakness because of the drop in oil prices and large sums already spent on the Stock Market was another factor contributing to the low trading and profits.

Al Saadoun said the government's attempts to push up the prices of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares had not stopped since 1982, beginning even before the Manakh crisis. He said that among these attempts was the issuing of

several laws, offering a subsidised rate for purchasing shares, splitting Kuwaiti shares and allowing Kuwaiti companies to buy 10 per cent of their own shares.

Prices

With each attempt, he said, the share prices would move up further but would soon come down again to an even lower level than it had been previously. He added that what is important here is that the government learn from its previous experiences and realise that the problem is not temporary or urgent, but rather an organisational and structural one.

Al Saadoun said that the yield of Kuwaiti shares was 1.9 per cent; the lowest returns of any other investment. He added that not less than 50 per cent of the companies in the market had not announced profits thus far.

He added that the Stock Market requires a comprehensive solution and studies must be

carried out on the financial companies in the market in order to replace firms that are not performing well, regardless of political or social considerations. By this, he stressed, the Stock Market could become a good investment means, adding that the general trend at present is a drop in the prices of shares of the majority of the companies, coupled with low trading on the shares.

Al Saadoun denied that any uptrend in share prices could reflect the true performance or growth in the national economy. He said that the government based its assumptions on this idea, which was not accurate. He expressed belief that the government would be able to convince dealers of this theory.

Study

When asked about the validity of a study that showed that the market value of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares lost KD7.2 billion during the last two years, with

the government holding almost half of the shares, Al Saadoun said that irrespective of any figures, it is well known that the government owns over half of the shares in the Stock Market and consequently will have to bear half of the losses.

He added that since the performance of the shares owned by the government is not as high as the shares owned by individuals and companies, its losses are expected to be more than others.

Growth

Al Saadoun said that the possibility of an oil price war is not ruled out and since Kuwait's income depends mainly on oil revenues, it will be affected by any price war or a further drop in the rate of exchange of the US dollar. He added that he expected some instability in the value of the US dollar.

Saadoun compared what had happened in the world stock markets during December '86 to

October '87 with the Kuwaiti Manakh crash. He said that the US Dow Jones index gained 1,000 points during this period without a true economic growth backing such a huge gain.

He added that this was one of the factors of the October '87 world stock market crash. The crash adversely affected the Kuwaiti investments, he said, which lost about \$5 billion while the whole world lost about \$2,000 billion.

Al Saadoun said that when public expenditures increase, despite the increase in the budget deficit, it means that the government is no longer capable of reducing expenditures. This means more borrowing, or more withdrawals from reserves if the oil revenues do not increase, he said.

He added that although financial data has not been published on the 1987 state revenues, the losses are expected to be around 10 per cent.

Leading brokerage sees gold stabilising

LONDON, March 2, (UPI): The price of gold will trade around \$420 an ounce for most of 1988, but should rally in the final quarter, brokers Shearson Lehman Brothers said today in an annual review of the gold industry.

Shearson forecast the London gold fix will range from \$420 to \$505 an ounce and projected an average official fixing price for the year of \$450 an ounce, little changed from last year's average of \$446.55.

"There is the possibility of a short-lived downward spike to \$380 an ounce but this, if it came about, will be fleeting," the review said.

Forecasts

The main forecasts for gold by Shearson were based on a slowdown in the rate in economic growth and no immediate rise in inflation.

Sustained growth in rising inflation could see gold soar to peak of \$525 an ounce and average \$465 an ounce. A

deflationary recession would, however, decrease the average to around \$420 an ounce, with a low of \$380 an ounce, the review said.

The stock market also remained a key influence through portfolio holdings and the attractiveness of gold loans to mining companies, the review said.

The review said the gold market was increasingly aware of the surplus of supply over physical fabrication demand which had to be absorbed just to maintain prices.

Purpose

Good Japanese investor demand, partly due to a change in the tax laws from April 1988, should erode the surplus, the review said.

At least 150 metric tons of gold was expected to flow into Japan for investment purposes.

Jewellery demand in the West was forecast to rise slightly to 815 metric tons from 800 in 1987, aided by increased demand from the Far East.

Rapid growth will offset deflationary effects of US slowdown

(Continued from Page 9)

In spite of the strength of the economy, the appropriate strategy with regard to the Japanese equity market is quite difficult to call. Over the longer-term, domestic cyclical stocks are clearly the best bet. Their earnings will benefit most from the rapid expansion of the economy.

Moreover, these stocks will provide better protection than (say) the financials in the event that the economy grows so rapidly that monetary policy has to be tightened.

However, this seems most unlikely in the short term. The Bank of Japan has recently eased interest rates. If the US economy turns out to have slackened significantly in the first quarter of 1988, its present tolerant attitude to access monetary growth might continue for a while. The recent rally in financials may have further to run over the next month or so.

The smaller Asian markets have been among the best performers in recent weeks. Taking January and December combined, Hong Kong rose 12.7 per cent and Singapore rose 13.6 per cent. In the first month of 1988 alone, the stockmarkets of Taiwan and Korea rose around 20 per cent. In contrast the Australian market fell back chiefly as a result of sharp falls in gold mining shares and weakness in the resources sector generally.

The All Ordinary Index fell 4.8 per cent in January though gold stocks fell around 20 per cent during the month.

Demand

Conventionally, markets such as Hong Kong and Singapore are seen as a play on US consumer demand. This is evident from the negative reaction of the Hong Kong market to the release of the fourth quarter US GNP figures (which suggested a rapidly weakening US economy).

However this view may be inappropriate. The importance of the US export market to Asian countries on the Pacific Basin Rim is diminishing. Conversely, trade links with Japan are now expanding very rapidly.

It is possible that the impact of rapid growth in the Japanese economy (say 5 per cent compared with 2-1/2 per cent last year) will go a good way towards offsetting the deflationary effects of the slowdown in the US. This is particularly true of Thailand, Korea and Taiwan.

Although most dependent on the US market, we believe that growth estimates for Hong Kong and Singapore have been marked down excessively since the stock market crash.

Hong Kong should manage 7-8 per cent growth this year and Singapore perhaps 5 per cent. The implication is that the smaller Asian markets now offer very good value in relation to their growth prospects. In the Pacific Basin Fund - which is presently about 60 per cent invested in Japan - we would be looking to increase exposure to Hong Kong and Singapore. More than 20 per cent of the Asian Smaller Markets Fund is now committed to Thailand and Korea. This is already a large commitment in view of the liquidity of these markets.

Steeply

The gold price - which breached the \$500 barrier on December 14 - fell sharply in January. At the month end, it was trading around \$455 per ounce. Gold shares have fallen more steeply. In the last fortnight of January, Australian golds fell more than 25 per cent while North American golds were down more than 15 per cent.

Provided by Scimitar Monthly Market Review.

Dollar mixed

UK stocks surge in buoyant mood

LONDON, March 2, (Reuters): British stocks broke through the psychologically important 1,800-point mark on the blue-chip FTSE index this morning after another strong rise in Tokyo.

But other European bourses were mixed with players apparently awaiting clearer signs of market directions.

Biggest

The dollar marked time and dealers expected little real movement one way or the other until the next set of US monthly trade figures due on March 17. At midday it traded in Europe around 1.6890 West German marks and 128.70 Japanese yen after closing in London Tuesday at 1.6865 marks and 128.35 yen.

Gold was fixed at \$431.55 an ounce in London this morning against \$429.30 on Tuesday.

The focus was on stock mar-

ets. A 48-point rally on Wall Street on Monday followed on Tuesday on profit-taking and the Dow Jones industrial average ended 1.16 points off at 2,070.46.

The Tokyo market, the world's biggest, rose today for the 14th out of the last 15 trading days. The Nikkei index was up 246.92 points or 0.97 per cent at 25,682.82 and that was just 3.6 per cent off its all-time high of 26,646.43 set last October 14 - five days before Black Monday on Wall Street.

"A month ago people were terrified of the year-end and now they are terrified of missing the race," said Gerhard Hinterhauser, assistant vice-president at DB Capital Markets (Asia) in Tokyo.

Investors on the sidelines are now less nervous about another big decline and more nervous they will miss an advance," said Michael Metz, a market strateg-

ist with Oppenheimer and Co in New York.

British shares powered ahead and by mid-morning London's FTSE index of 100 key shares had broken through the 1,800 points level after closing at 1,781.9 on Tuesday. By midday, it was hovering within a point or two either way of the 1,800 mark.

After a hesitant start to the day's trading, a combination of pre-budget optimism and positive company results led to a steady rise during the morning session with improved volume, dealers said.

Hopes

The FTSE index last rose above 1,800 - an important resistance level - during trading on February 1 but the market's hopes of any continuing rally were dashed then by a half-point rise in British base rates to nine per cent.

West German and French

shares opened slightly easier today. "There is no selling pressure but everyone is cautious," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

In Paris, dealers also said the underlying feeling was optimistic. "We're still on the right track," said one French dealer. "This market is cash-rich with all these takeover bids and stock buybacks," he said.

Spanish and Italian shares continued to move upwards while Stockholm opened lower. Dutch and Swiss shares were mixed.

In other Asian markets, Sydney closed higher because of growing optimism that the fortunes of its heavyweight mining industry may be looking up, dealers said. The All Ordinaries index gained 12.2 points to 1,285.5.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index edged up 7.42 points to close at around 2,462.13 points.

Hong Kong is world's busiest container port

HONG KONG, March 2, (UPI): China's modernisation programme and its increasing overseas trade through the port of Hong Kong has helped the British colony's container terminals become the busiest in the world.

Hong Kong's container port at Kwai Chung, on the mainland shore of teeming Victoria Harbour, has boomed with the increase of China's posture as a major production centre for the colony's factories.

The government's marine department said Hong Kong in January surpassed Rotterdam as the world's top container port, increasing its traffic 24.63 per cent last year from the 2.7 million units it handled in 1986.

Officials said Rotterdam would need a 17.5 per cent growth increase to maintain its No. 1 position. Dutch officials indicated their port figures, due out later this year, were expected to show zero growth for 1987.

Confident

"We are quite confident that we are the No. 1 container port in the world," a marine department spokesman said.

Local manufacturers have found it is cheaper to produce goods on the low-cost Chinese mainland and bring them back to Hong Kong for dispatch overseas.

The practice has given China the foreign exchange and infras-

tructure it needs, plus adding to the territory's shipping and port profits.

"They (China) have huge potential, but they don't have very good port facilities or infrastructure," said Mark Leese, managing director of Modern Terminals Ltd. "It has to come down through Hong Kong."

With China cargo increasing at nearly 60 per cent annually as the People's Republic churns out more and more exports, about 45 per cent of all containers handled in Hong Kong are loaded with mainland goods.

Exports

Trade figures through November 1987 showed Hong Kong's annual trade with China rose 18 per cent over 1986 to about \$17 billion.

China reported that its overall exports rose \$34.6 billion last year, a 28.1 per cent increase over 1986 and a sure sign that the mainland's modernisation drive had not let up.

"Most of the growth over the last two years has been China traffic," said John Meredith, managing director of Hong Kong International Terminals Ltd., the second major container operation here.

"Before the open door policy we used to get containers coming out of China," he said. "Now we are getting large volumes going in."

Meredith said China trade has

grown as more factories come into operation. Exports increase as manufacturers begin to produce and there is a need to import equipment and unfinished products from Hong Kong.

Container operators have invested billions of dollars in the world's largest cranes, trucks and other equipment to improve Kwai Chung's handling capability. The only Asian container port open 24 hours daily seven days a week, Kwai Chung is in endless activity.

Towering four-legged cranes straddle stacks of containers and constantly load them onto tractor-trailers which lumber from one staging area to another.

Activity picks up when a ship docks alongside a berth, dwarfing the 10-storey, \$20 million cranes which reach across the ships.

Like a well-oiled machine, a steady stream of trucks race from stacks of containers waiting to be moved to the large cranes loading the ships.

Before the age of container shipping nearly 20 years ago, it would take an hour to load 10 tons of cargo onto a ship. Now it takes just over a minute to load 30 tons.

Facilities

In contrast with Kwai Chung's high-tech, computer-controlled facilities is the large amount of container handling in the harbour by large junks equipped

with cranes. Most of the junks house the crew and their families.

About 52 per cent of containers going through Hong Kong in 1987 were handled through the harbour and the ferries and wood-hulled sampans busy the waterway.

Many smaller inter-Asia ships are offloaded in the harbour, mainly because it is less expensive than Kwai Chung, although officials said this takes 5 days as opposed to 12 hours.

Even though the British colony will be returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, officials at Kwai Chung are looking to the future and are working to keep pace with Hong Kong's overall trade growth.

Growth

By the end of 1990 Kwai Chung hopes to double its annual throughput to four million containers as it increases the size of the terminal. Officials see a growth by the end of the century of up to 10 million containers per year.

But with 45 per cent of the colony's exports going to the United States, Hong Kong's economic climate and authorities fear a possible US recession could mean a decrease in Kwai Chung's throughput.

Hong Kong already is predicting its exports will grow only about 6 per cent this year, compared with 20 per cent in 1987.

Kuwait National Petroleum

Bidding No. 457/R/9 supply of carbon sheets

The KNPC - Mina Abdulla Refinery Department, invites the above bidding in conformity with the general and special conditions stated in the bidding documents which can be obtained from the Higher Committee for Purchases & Projects at the Company Headquarters during office hours against a non-refundable fee of KD2/-.

The closing date for submitting offers shall be 12:00 noon Monday, 11.4.88. Offers shall be addressed to the Chairman & Managing Director, KNPC, PO Box 70, 13001 Kuwait and deposited in the Company Tender Box at the Headquarters before the closing date.

Offers shall be valid for 90 days as of the date of opening envelopes. Initial guarantee shall be 2-1/2% of the offer value to be valid throughout the offer validity period.

General Administration of Civil Aviation

Bidding No. 4-87/88 - Construction & completion of fair navigation room on the 5th Ring Road.

The General Administration for Civil Aviation hereby announces the above bidding for construction & completion of Air Navigation Room at the Fifth Ring Road in conformity with the conditions and specifications obtainable from the Tenders Division General Admin.

(To be continued)

Provided by M.A. Mursi Umm Al Maradin International Est. P.O. Box 3854, Safat, Tel. 5337547/5337610.

Fed chief urges further cuts in US budget deficit

WASHINGTON, March 2, (Reuters): The chairman of the US Central Bank appealed today for the United States to continue to slice away at its budget deficit.

In testimony before the Senate Budget Committee, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said tax increases might help bring down the deficit though this strategy carried economic risks.

After intense negotiations last November following the October stock market crash, Reagan administration and congressional leaders agreed to pare \$76 billion from the deficit over two years.

Plan

As a result of this accord, the budget plan just submitted to Congress by President Reagan would reduce the deficit to \$129.5 billion for the 1989 financial year from an estimated 147 billion for the current year and 150 billion in 1987.

Greenspan said foreign capital inflows had been filling the gap

between US domestic savings and the necessary investment required to float the national debt. "This is neither a satisfactory nor a sustainable solution over the long run," he said.

He said sizeable reductions in budget deficits were the surest way to overcome the shortfall in domestic savings and also were essential to avoid greater pressures on financial and foreign exchange markets.

Greenspan dismissed suggestions that reducing the deficit would risk slowing the US economy in a serious way.

Cuts

Some economists have suggested dramatic cuts could undermine economic health.

Greenspan acknowledged there are no easy answers or magic formulas to cut the budget, but he told the committee that at some point it would probably be desirable to aim not just for smaller deficits but for outright budgetary surpluses.

The Fed chief said he suspec-

ted there were limits to the share of income that can be taxed because of the disincentives and economic inefficiencies that seem to grow disproportionately with the size of the tax burden.

"This does not mean, however, that revenue changes should be dismissed out of hand," he said.

For example, he said he has long urged a sizeable increase in the federal petrol tax.

An increase of 15 cents per gallon could raise almost \$15 billion in revenues.

But he said deficit reduction efforts must focus primarily on the spending side of the budget.

He said it would be inappropriate for him to specify where to cut spending because the choices were political, not economic, but entitlement programmes such as social security and health care for the elderly offered clear opportunities for savings as they accounted for nearly half of total federal spending.

Saudi Arabia marks 50 years as oil producer

BAHRAIN, March 2, (Reuters): Fifty years ago, American oilmen looked on with a mixture of wonder and disbelief as oil gushed out of a well on the edge of the barren Arabian desert.

After two years of fruitless drilling, well number seven in Saudi Arabia's eastern province produced the nation's first oil in commercial quantities.

Forty-five years later the well was dry, but that first discovery in Dammam on March 3, 1938, marked the start of Saudi Arabia's transformation from a poor tribal kingdom into the richest power in the Middle East.

Prosperity

Petrodollars brought unprecedented prosperity to an arid desert people and huge political power that enabled Saudi Arabia to dictate world oil prices after the 1973 Arab oil boycott.

But today the kingdom no longer earns \$2 billion a week from oil. Slack prices and a glutted market are forcing a major rethink as it tries to secure its position as the world's number one crude exporter.

Slide

Saudi Arabia is now planning to reorganise its oil industry, welding it into an integrated operation ranging from crude oil production to refining products and selling petrol at the pumps.

"It makes sense for the Saudis to try to integrate all states of the oil industry, to have access to downstream markets to sell more

of its output," said Peter Nicol of Chase Manhattan Securities in London.

Restructuring is a bid to halt a slide in earnings, which last year fell to \$20 billion from a peak of over 100 billion in 1981. As prices retreated, output fell to two years' low of 4.3 million barrels per day from 9.9 million in 1981.

The first sign of reorganisation came in late 1986 with the ousting of veteran oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani, for many the human face of the desert oil producer and the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

His successor Hisham Nazer quickly called in international consultants Arthur D. Little to advise on the reorganisation of the country's industry.

Profitability

"Nazer is now trying to streamline the oil industry to increase profitability and efficiency along the lines of major oil companies in a world of slack demand," Mehdi Varzi of Kleinwort Greaveson and Company said.

The long-term objective appears to be to merge Saudi Arabia's two main state oil firms, Aramco and Petromin - the Arabian American Oil Company and the General Organisation of Petroleum and Minerals.

A first move is likely to establish companies for domestic and international marketing, refining and lubricants operations to increase efficiency.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 2.3.88

B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Safer	Algh Barber	4843988
6	Rashid	Alqutub	4747815
12	Kara Koram	Transcont.	2433620
14	Fathul Khair	KSA	4843150
15	Pan Korea	Alqutub	4747815

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2/3	UCO-17	Sager Shaheen	2432692
2/3	Kalish	Alqutub	4747815
2/3	Barge Uco-J	Sager Shaheen	2432692
2/3	Tug Dara		

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Nadelhorn	Alqutub	4747815
3	UCO XVII	Sager	2432692
9	Abu Basma	Roger	2423642
11	Fathulhair	UASC	4843150

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2/3	Barbara Morgan	Al Bader	2433537
2/3	Andrea Merzario	Al Kamal	2425437
2/3	Sunderbans	Al Majid	2421439

COMPILED by Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. WLL, PO Box 21708 Safat, Alghanim Industries Bldg, Airport Road, Shuwaikh, Phone 4842988/4843988, extn. 3628/3614.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 2, (Reuters): The market ended stronger with rises in most sectors as buyers focused on leading industrial and resource stocks. The All Ordinaries index rose 12.2 to 1,285.5.

TOKYO: Shares closed higher in aggressive buying amid confidence boosted by a stable dollar. The Nikkei Average rose 246.92 to 25,682.82.

HONG KONG: Prices closed higher on generally improved sentiment but profit-taking trimmed gains. The Hang Seng index rose 7.42 to 2,462.13.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed mixed with profit-taking alternating with Bargain-Hunting in quiet and featureless trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 1.98 to 892.26.

BOMBAY: Prices weakened in listless trading with operators complaining that Monday's budget provided few incentives for depressed stock markets.

FRANKFURT: Shares ended a dull session easier, with domestic and foreign investors sidelined and professional operators parking back long positions. The Commerzbank index at mid-session was down 8.7 to 1,395.7.

ZURICH: Prices ended higher after a cautious opening in the light of Wall Street's slightly lower close. The All-Share Swiss index at 1330 GMT was up 7.7 to 830.2.

PARIS: Prices were lower, with activity centred on profit-taking on potential takeover targets which had risen earlier. The 50-share bourse indicator was down by 2.15 pct at the main session opening.

Italian trade team in Kuwait

Dear Junior Readers,

One of the very special things about living in Kuwait is that you can meet people from many different countries. Although we may have read about the customs of people from other countries it is always exciting when we can experience these customs for ourselves by travelling to a foreign country or through discussions with friends.

When you meet someone from another country it is important to remember that this is an individual you are meeting. Try not to form opinions about that person based on generalisations you have heard about the country he or she is from. You will miss out on learning so much about others if you make judgements about others' countries rather than trying to understand people as individuals.

Really learn about other people before you form your own opinions, and then remember that everyone you meet from any country will not be the same as the few you have already met.

Aunt Barbara

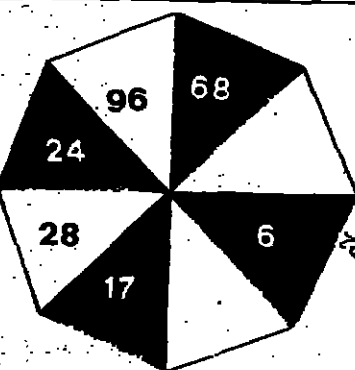
Happy birthday



Salman celebrated his third birthday last week in Kuwait. Happy birthday, Salman, from your family and friends.



Jason D'Cunha celebrates his first birthday today. Best wishes, Jason, from your family and friends.



Mind jogger
Which numbers logically fit into the blank segments?



ROBBY wanted a guinea pig more than anything else in the world.

He had once owned two pet rats, but his mother was the one who looked after them because Robby forgot to feed them.

He once had two angelfish and six guppies, but the water got so dirty no one could see them. His mother had to clean the fish tank.

His mother often said, "The problem with having pets is that mothers always end up taking care of them."

Robby promised that if he could have a guinea pig he really would look after it.

One day his mother found a guinea pig on sale at the pet store. She bought him and took him home in a small white box for Robby's ninth birthday.

When Robby opened the box, he found a ball of fur with two black eyes. It was Gynn.

Baby Gynn was soft and fuzzy. He was white and grey with black hairs sticking up all around. He could look straight ahead and to both sides without moving his head. But his eyes were hard to find because they were under all that hair.

For some time Gynn lived quite happily in a large cage in Robby's bedroom.

Robby gave him pellets and fresh water every day and cleaned the cage every four days, just as he had promised. And he gave him so many green celery tops for snacks that whenever the refrigerator door opened Gynn would cry, "Squeee, squeee, squeee."

Sometimes Robby gave Gynn freshly cut dandelion-leaves too, for a special treat. Soon he looked like a fat, round, furry football.

Gynn, the guinea pig

But Gynn had nothing to do when Robby wasn't around, and he spent hours staring through the window at the green grass outside.

Gradually Robby became more interested in computer games than in his pet.

As soon as he got home from school he sat down in front of the computer screen. He played game after game, and when he was bored with games, he

wrote programmes until bedtime. Early every morning he was back pecking at the keys.

One day Robby's mother checked Gynn's cage and found it a sorry, smelly mess. Gynn looked sad. His fur was dull and he was terribly hungry. Robby had not been looking after him at all.

One day she was talking to a friend about the problem. Her friend looked sad when she saw

Gynn. "Oh dear," she said. "And my children would so love to have a guinea pig."

Suddenly Robby's mother knew what to do. She spoke to Robby and they agreed on an adoption.

On Christmas Eve Robby gave Gynn a last snack of celery tops, said "goodbye" and wrapped the cage in an old green blanket.

On Christmas Day a

large green parcel sat beneath the Kite family tree.

When Katie and Harry unwrapped the blanket, they were thrilled. They already owned five cats, but a guinea pig was special. Now they had Gynn.

They took turns picking him up, and he snuggled under their chins. His bristly hair tickled them and made them laugh.

They put Gynn on the sun porch, surrounded on three sides by windows. From there he could see more than grass. He could see mountains and ocean and sky as well.

Katie and Harry cleaned and fed Gynn most of the time, and Mrs Kite didn't mind helping now and then. She grew quite fond of him.

The curious cats liked him too. But when they tried to play with him he leapt into the air and squealed. So most of the time they left him alone.

In the spring Mrs Kite had an idea. She lifted Gynn out of his cage and set him down in the backyard. He took a quick look around, then scurried off into the raspberry bushes beside the fence.

From then on he lived outside in summer and inside in winter.

Mr Kite built a little house for Gynn beside the fence.

Every morning Katie put him outside. And every evening Harry brought him back in, so he could sleep in his cage filled with sweet-smelling grass.

Gynn grew fatter and happier than most guinea pigs. He gorged on crab grass, mint leaves and dandelions. He wore a path between the dandelion patch, the raspberry bushes and his little house.

For two years and eight months the Kite family loved and cared for him.

Then, one night while he was eating his dinner of grass, Gynn suddenly died. No one knew how or why it happened. It just did.

Everyone was very sad.

They put Gynn in a small white box. Mr Kite dug a grave for him in his favourite corner near the raspberry bushes, where he'd so often sat munching mint leaves on a warm summer day.

Mrs Kite read a poem, while Katie and Harry placed a wooden marker on the mound of earth.

Mr Kite blew his nose. Mrs Kite cried softly into her handkerchief. Katie gulped and wiped her nose. Harry wept noisily into his fists.

For days the family thought and talked about their friend.

Mrs Kite recalled the day Katie and Harry had found Gynn under the Christmas tree.

Mr Kite reminded the others how they'd laughed at Gynn's guilty face when he ate the mint bush down to the ground.

Harry tacked his favourite photograph of Gynn on the kitchen bulletin board. He framed another one and placed it on the mantle among all the other family photos.

Katie remembered how she and Harry would take turns holding Gynn. She remembered how he would cuddle, and how his bristly hair would tickle their chins.

The next spring they planted chrysanthemum seeds in Gynn's corner. Each year the flowers remind them of their small friend and the happiness he brought them.



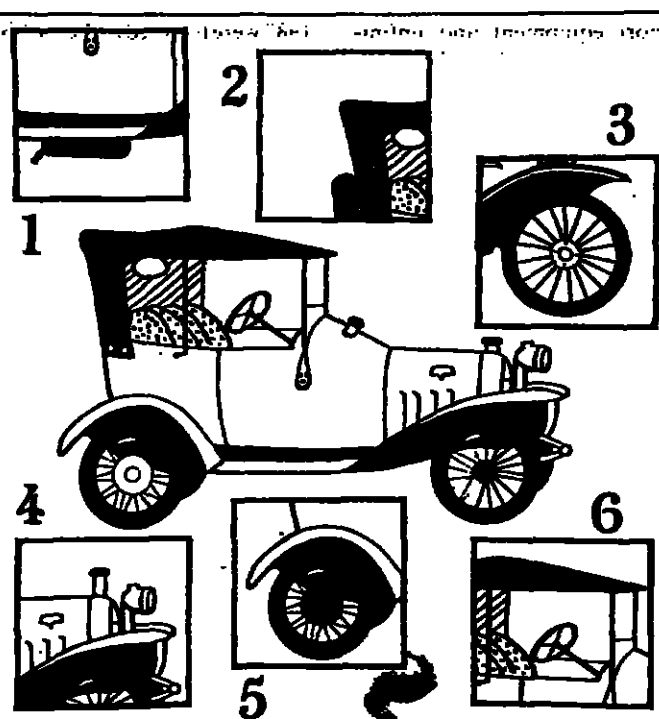
Gulf English students enjoy Sports Day



Over 200 Infant 3 students from Gulf English School participated in Sports Day at Yarmouk Stadium yesterday. The children, divided into different teams, competed in various sports events, coached by their teachers. A winning team is pictured above with their trophy.

Car parts

Which of the six small pictures is the only exact copy of part of the car?



Poetry Corner

Zanzibar Pete and Zoom-along Dick

took a picnic to eat in the park.

They took so much food

(without being rude)

that they had to stay there until dark.

Zanzibar Pete and Zoom-along Dick

picked up all of the litter they'd made.

Then they felt so much thinner

they went home to dinner

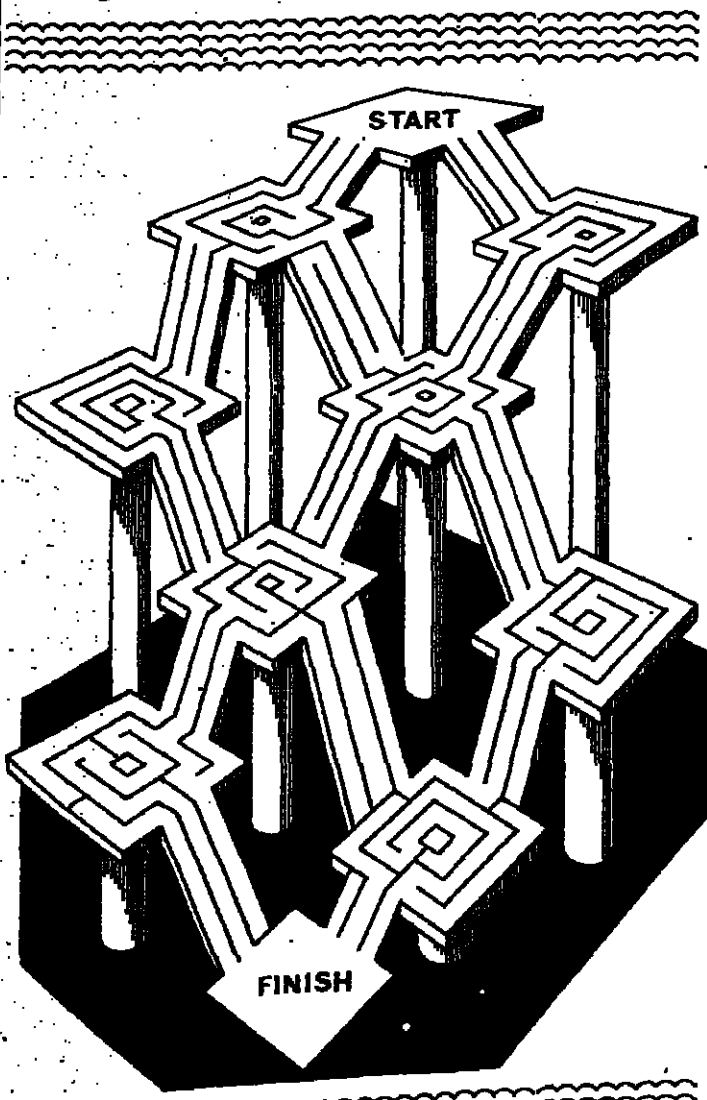
and ate a lot more, I'm afraid.

Reilly (Copyright)



Platform maze

A puzzle for level-headed people. Can you find your way through this maze?



Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



Cut and restored necktie

The illusion:

Someone wearing a necktie is brought forward to help you. Suddenly you accidentally cut off the end of his tie. He removes the tie and, since it's now worthless anyway, you cut it into several more pieces. The remains of the tie are placed in a paper bag, it's blown up, and then burst. You reach into the shreds of paper and remove the necktie completely restored.

The preparation:

You need one friend, two identical neckties, and two identical paper bags. Your friend is wearing one tie, and the other is secretly hidden in the prepared bag.

Cut one of the bags down each side, about 1" in from the crease, and along the bottom (1). The smaller piece of the bag is now glued inside the second, whole bag by its three cut edges, leaving the top edge open (2). When the glue is dry, put the second necktie in the main compartment of the bag, fold it flat, and have it nearby for when

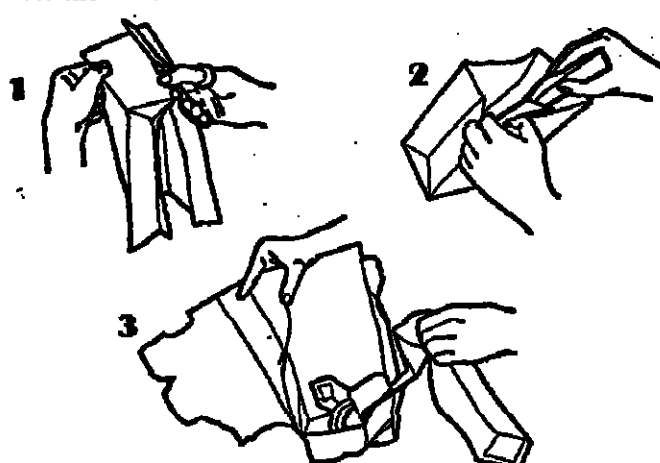
you do the trick. Your friend sits in the audience just as if he doesn't know what's going to happen.

The trick:

Mention that you need a helper for your next trick and ask your friend to come forward. Pick up a pair of scissors and tell everyone you're going to do a cut-and-restored string trick that is absolutely marvellous. Ask him if he happens to have a piece of string in his pocket. Naturally he doesn't. Then notice that he apparently has a spot on the end of his tie. Ask him if he knows how to remove the spot and when he says, "No," cut off the end of the tie. At this point he should act as though he can't believe what you've just done, but you tell him you can fix it. He removes his necktie and reluctantly gives it to you. You immediately cut it into five or six more pieces, open up the paper bag, and place the pieces inside. However, you don't place them in the main part of the bag. You have slid your finger in between the two false sides of the bag so the pieces can go into the secret compartment. Have your friend blow up the bag, then you reach over and burst it. Because the two sides of the secret compartment are glued together, they are strong enough to withstand the popping. Only the single side in the main part will break open. Reach inside the torn bag and remove the whole

necktie, letting the audience see the empty interior of the bag as you do so (3). As your helper knots the whole tie around his neck, casually wad up the bag and put it away.

The two of you must act as though the first cutting of the necktie is a bad joke on your part, and, of course, your friend must be loyal enough to never tell how you actually did the trick.



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SALMIYA Baghdad St. One room for an Indian couple or family to share with family. Tele. Godinho 5723020, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 8.30 pm. (AT5-41218-2)

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Botham in hot water as Queenslanders toil

SYDNEY, March 2. (Reuters): England all-rounder Ian Botham landed in hot water as Victoria frustrated Queensland's hopes of a decisive breakthrough in their Sheffield Shield match today.

Botham was reported for swearing by umpires Robin Bailhache and Darrell Holt as Victoria reached 243 for seven by the close on the first day.

Breaching
An official statement later said Botham had been charged with breaching sections of the Australian Cricket Board's code of behaviour.

Victorian Cricket Association executive director Ken Jacobs said the sections pertained to "conduct detrimental to the game and crude and/or abusive language."

Botham toiled hard under a blazing sun, sending down 17 overs and taking one wicket for 53 runs as Queensland, joint Shield leaders, desperately sought outright points that would ensure the final is held in Brisbane.

In Perth, joint leaders Western Australia routed South Australia for 138 but then lost quick wickets themselves to leave the match evenly poised at the end of the first day.

Fast medium left-hander

Bruce Reid destroyed the South Australian middle order and tail as he snapped up five wickets for a mere nine runs in the space of 40 deliveries and ended with five for 34.

Newcomer
But then newcomer Chris Killen and South Australia's other new-ball bowlers, Andrew Zesers and Peter Gladigau, combined to have Western Australia in serious trouble at 37 for five in the 21st over.

However, captain Graeme Wood and Tim Zoehrer rescued the side with a fighting sixth-wicket partnership which produced 51 runs in 36 minutes.

At the close, Western Australia were 95 for six, with Wood on 29 and Chris Matthews five.

Results
In Melbourne: Victoria 243 for seven (Dav Whatmore 85, Warren Ayres 46, Dirk Tazelaar three for 50) v Queensland.

In Sydney: Tasmania 276 for six (David Boon 93, Mick Taylor 81, Brian Davison 47 not out, Steve Waugh four for 38) v New South Wales.

In Perth: South Australia 138 (Peter Sleep 34, Bruce Reid five for 34), Western Australia 95 for six (Andrew Zesers three for 48, Chris Killen two for 17).

YMCA Winners Cup cricket

RESULTS of the cricket tournament matches played for the YMCA Winners Cup on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmadi Governorate Ground.

Kokan vs Gold Star

Kokan won the toss and put Gold Star to bat. Gold Star scored 135 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in the allotted 25 overs. Top scorers for Gold Star were Amin 35, Khawar 34, Sajjad 29 and Khalid 22. Wickets for Kokan were taken by Ibrar 2 for 28, Javed 2 for 24 and Inayat 1 for 22 runs. Kokan in reply scored 138 in 22.2 overs and won the match by 6 wickets. Top scorers for Kokan were Zia 50 not out, Ibrahim 34, Majid 16, and Ibrar 19 not out. Wicket takers for Gold Star were Khawar 2 for 29 and Amin 2 for 24 runs.

YMCA vs Young Masters

Young Masters, a team with young boys of the Indian School played with YMCA, who won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 138 for 9 wickets in 29 overs.

Arif was the main scorer for YMCA with 102 runs to his credit. Iftikhar 42 and Bashir 16 were the only batsmen to cross double figures. Young Masters' Samir was the most successful bowler taking 5 wickets for 19 runs in 5 overs, Salim 2 for 38, Neil 1 for 50 and Ralph 1 for 24 runs.

Young Masters in reply scored 114 for 9 wickets in 29 overs. Main scorers were skipper

Ahmed 25, Tariq 23 and Saad 23 runs. Wicket takers for YMCA were Ambrose 2 for 5 and Parker 2 for 32 runs. Other wicket takers were Abbasbasinge, Ibrar, Satyen, Mazid and Iftikhar one wicket each. YMCA won the match by 84 runs.

Young Masters vs Union

Young Masters Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bat first losing their skipper run out without scoring and managed to score 105 all out in 27 overs. Main scorers were George 20, Biswajet 20, Neil 18 and Haji Miya 13 runs. Wickets were taken for Union by Azam 2 for 19, Shazad 2 for 8, Razak 3 for 8, Mehmoond 2 for 7 and Abid one wicket.

Young Masters having a tough Union team as opponents, took no chances to play an easy game. Union opened with Razak the top evergreen player and Farak Butt but were given an early shock by Young Masters. Ahmed clean bowled Farak for a back-arch in the second over when Neil caught Abdul Razak in the slip for only 6 runs, were 12 in just 2 overs. A very good partnership by Mehmoond and Sheezad who scored 62 runs in 9 overs with individual scores of Mehmoond 37, Sheezad 46 not out and Irfad 9 not out managed to score the required runs in 15.3 overs. Other wicket taker for Young Masters was Richard 1 for 31 runs. Union won the match.

Diamond beat Kerala

DIAMOND Cricket Club defeated Kerala Cricket Club in a friendly cricket match at Sharq on Feb 25.

After winning the toss Diamond elected to bat first, they opened the innings with Tariq and Ejaz and scored 24 runs in 4 overs, when the latter was bowled by Mazarhar for 13. Tariq joined Lancy and scored 45 runs for the second wicket, Lancy left at 69, after being lbw to Arvind.

Next batsman captain Liaqat Ali joined with Tariq and both of

them exhibited some good strokes, at the end Diamond scored 161 for the loss of 8 wickets in their allotted 25 overs. Tariq hammered 50, Liaqat hit 25, Asghar 12, Mustafa and Mazarhar claimed two wickets each, Arvind and Feroz one wicket each.

In reply, Kerala could only manage 140 for the loss of 7 wickets in 25 overs. Arvind hit 34, Faisal 28, Fawaz 22, and Naser 20.

For Diamond, Liaqat, Tariq, Ajeeth, Ejaz and Ashar took one wicket each.

Starlite thrash Unity to clinch trophy

STARLITE thrashed Unity by seven wickets to wrest the Rothmans Royals trophy in a one-sided affair on Friday at Ahmadi. Baber winning the toss promptly elected to bat sending in openers Bader and Inam to face the new ball attack of Maqsood and Maqbool. First blood was drawn by Maqbool when Bader was bowled neck and crop for 10 making Unity 29 for 1.

Ejaz soon followed at the same total bowled by another low keeping delivery from Maqbool. Inam was joined by Lewis and Inam instead of staying at the wicket tried to drive Sohail, missed the line and his stumps were rattled for 11, making Unity a miserable 47 for 3.

Stepped
Baber stepped in and facing his first delivery greeted Maqbool, Starlite's best bowler with a straight six.

His dominance in a stand of 36 runs, when Lewis was caught and bowled by Ejaz for 13. Maqsood and Shabbir were out cheaply and Unity were once again struggling at 129 for 6. Baber in the meantime, had stroked his way to a powerful 63 when a dubious decision brought an end to his entertaining innings.

Six sizzling boundaries sounded the boards and 3 soaring sixes adorned his breezy knock that came off only 33 deliveries. After the fall of the 7th wicket Rafiq was joined by Chris who was dismissed first ball for no score.

Denzil coming lower down in the order held the fort in the company of Rafiq who was playing with caution mixed with occasional aggression. These two gave Unity some hope of recovery as they put on 58 runs for the 8th wicket.

Rafiq played some glorious shots, while Denzil was content to play second fiddle giving Rafiq the much needed support. At 203, Rafiq was stumped by Mansoor off Arif for 52.

Danny joined Denzil and with overs ticking by Denzil in trying to accelerate the scoring eventually holed out to Arshad at midwicket for 23 making him the third highest scorer in the side. Unity were all out for 222 with 3 overs to spare.

For Starlite bowling honours were shared by Ejaz (4) Maqbool (2) Arif (2) and Sohail (1).

Reply

Starlite requiring 223 for victory began their reply through Arshad and Iqbal. Both played attacking cricket from the beginning and paid Danny scant respect. Shabbir settled to bowl better and saw the misfortune of Bader drop an easy straight catch offered by Iqbal at the total 31. Thereafter, it was Arshad Shams all the way.

Batting with great concentration and responsibility took the score to 63 when he saw the dismissal of Iqbal caught behind by Inam off Chris for 21. Arif came in and along with Arshad staged a great fightback and produced

WRIGHT AND GATTING LEAD THEIR TEAMS FOR THIRD TEST

Spinners could hold the key

WELLINGTON, March 2. (Reuters): England will include two spinners and New Zealand is likely to do the same as both sides search for new weapons to break the deadlock for the third and deciding Test starting in Wellington tomorrow.

With the absence of Richard Hadlee from the New Zealand side, the team attacks of both teams have looked decidedly ordinary despite being up against mostly inexperienced and classless batsmen.

The basin reserve pitch is brown and likely to take slow spin from the start.

Absent
The crowds were markedly absent in the first two drawn and drawn-out Tests. While the unseasonably cool weather and the slow pitches have contributed, the main factor has been the lack of attacking cricket. Both captains will have to display a more attacking approach

than they have so far in the series if they are to attract spectators. There has not been one attacking batting innings of note so far and neither bowling attack appears to have the thrust to knock the other side over.

New Zealand will have a new captain in John Wright but it is hard to see him taking risks in his first Test. England's Mike Gatting, who has the dismal record of two wins and four losses from 21 Tests as captain, seems more intent on avoiding defeat than winning.

Recalled
New Zealand has recalled Stephen Boock from retirement and the left-arm off-spinner has let it be known he was not prepared to go to Wellington just to carry the drinks tray.

Off-spinner John Bracewell bowled well in his only innings in the second Test in Auckland and he is a certainty to play. England undoubtedly made a

mistake in not including off-spinner Eddie Hemmings in his eleven in Auckland and the selectors have ensured that cannot be repeated by naming only eleven players in its team for this Test.

Misread
Gatting, who is known to prefer faster bowlers over spinners, appeared to misread the Auckland pitch. Although green and well grassed, it never gave any great assistance to the pacemen and at the end of the match he criticised the fact that speedster Graham Dilley was unable to bounce the second new ball above bail height.

The lack of variety in England's attack was revealed in New Zealand's second innings of 350 for seven.

England's other off-spinner, John Embury, does not turn the ball as much as Hemmings and he seems to have lost the art of looping the ball to attack the batsman.

He has been holding his place through his eccentric but effective batting but there must be questions about a bowler who has recently averaged only about two wickets per Test.

Dropped
England dropped Neal Radford, who was largely ineffectual in Auckland, and Paul Jarvis, who has made way for the extra speed and firepower of Phillip DeFreitas.

David Capel was virtually a spare part both in England's bowling and its batting in Auckland and was lucky in Wellington to get in ahead of Jarvis but his superior batting talent decided the issue.

New Zealand's batting will be strengthened by the omission of former captain Jeff Crowe but team manager Gren Alabaster's announcement that Andrew Jones has not recovered from the wrist injury he sustained in the first Test is a serious blow.



Gatting: two wins and four losses from 21 Tests

QMCC register two victories

QUAID-E-MILLAT Cricket Club (QMCC) continued its winning spree in Burud Trophy at EPI by registering two wins on Thursday.

In a morning match against Hubara, QMCC while batting first scored 177 in the allotted 30 overs after losing seven wickets. Javed 47, Jamil 40 and Ishfaq 28 were the main contributors.

For Hubara, Oliver bowled well taking two for 34. When Hubara took the crease they were jolted by QMCC's skipper Munir who bowled with nagging line and length.

Malden
His spell of six overs including a maiden earned him six wickets for 24 runs. Only D. Boldy 48 (not out) and Greenwood 38 offered any worth-mentioning resistance as Hubara were skidded out for just 142 runs thus losing the match by 35 runs.

In the afternoon, CCK won the toss and elected to bat but did manage only 144 runs in 30 overs. Raees Khan 61, Rifat 29 (not out) and Faisal 22 were the only batsmen to reach the double figures.

QMCC's Javed and Jamil bagged two wickets each as Amar and Raza got a piece each.



QMCC team

Requiring just 4.83 per over QMCC openers Raza and Ishfaq put-on 85 runs but the departure of former for 46 signalled a mini-collapse as he was immediately followed by Jamil (3), Chacha Hameed (2), Ishfaq (36) and Baber (3) with the total just 101 runs.

But then Sadaqat and Munir batted sensibly to avert any danger of an unexpected result and surpassed their opponents total in the 24th over without further loss. Sadaqat scored 28 and Munir had 22 to his name. Pervaz (three) and F. Rifat (two) were the main bowlers.

Green Star lift Cantt Challenge Cup

IN the final of Cantt Challenge Cup cricket tournament played on Friday at Rumejthiya ground, Green Star thrashed Cantt CC by seven wickets.

After they won the toss Green Star put Cantt CC to bat. Cantt CC scored 172 runs and were all out. Zahid (47) Faisal (36) and Anosh (24) were the main scorers. For Green Star, Mujahid took 3 wickets while Khalid and Zahid shared two wickets each.

Catches
In reply Green Star got home in the 27th over with the loss of only three wickets. Apart from many drop catches Amjad played very well and scored (116 not out), with the help of 11 fours and 3 sixes.

After the match prizes were distributed by chief guest Hakan Granander, the managing director of International Shipping Agency and Abdullah from ISA, Toor, Kuwait social personality and Qamar, engineer of Salmiya Co-op Society were among the other guests who distributed



Green Star captain with the Cantt Challenge Cup

prizes. Cantt CC got runner-up Cup, while Sialkot Eleven got third prize. Man of the Match for final was Amjad of Green Star, he also got Man of the Match prize for semifinal.

Farooq, Iqbal and Amjad were awarded Best Batsmen.

Bowling
Darryl, Amjad and Saifuddin got prizes for their best performance in bowling.

Salmiya Cup soccer tourney

A ONE-DAY seven-a-side football tournament for the Salmiya Cup will be held on March 4 at the Sour Ground.

Teams can contact Tel: 5643558, 5650466 or 5614506 after 6 pm for details.

Kifco trophy

STARLITE will meet Evergreen in final of Kifco trophy on Friday 4.3.88 at the NC ground. The match organised by KCL will commence at 9 am and will be a 45 over full day affair. Ashraf Khan, general manager of Kifco will be the chief guest and he will give away the prizes.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
Canara Exchange Co. W.L.L. wishes to inform their patrons and constituents, that their Murgab branch office will be shifted to alternative premises on the ground floor of the Sulaiman Abdullah Al Mansour Building, opp. Safat Post Office, between Oman Exchange Co. and Dollarco Exchange Co. as from 1.3.1988.
We solicit your continued patronage.



On Saturday the 27th of Feb. 88 the opening of Al-Muthanna Festival for perfumes, Gifts and Accessories took place in Al-Muthanna Complex one of the most leading Residential and Commercial Complexes in Kuwait. The selected Commercial outlets participating in this festival were: Prinsonic, Elysee, Al Massel, Al Shayaee, Body Shop, My Fair Lady, Fanatek, Korian House, and Abd Al Hameed Rassol. They presented the newest and most fashionable types of Perfumes, Gifts and Accessories. The Opening ceremony of the festival was attended by Mr. Jassem Al Doweikh Al-Muthanna Complex Manager, a number of citizens and owners of the participating outlets. The Festival will go on till the 3rd of March 88.

SPORTS

King Fahd inaugurates Gulf Soccer Tournament

RIYADH, March 2, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's newest and largest football stadium officially opened today when King Fahd inaugurated the ninth annual Gulf Soccer Tournament.

The King Fahd International Stadium, which can seat up to 70,000 people, has a spectator canopy shaped like rays of Arabian sun and the world's largest free-span fibreglass structure.

It is one of 12 major sport complexes built in Saudi Arabia during the past 15 years for a total of more than \$12 billion.

Young men from the Kingdom's national guard and military formed intricate human mosaics with multi-coloured banners as King Fahd performed the opening ceremony.

Football is Saudi Arabia's most popular sport and seats in the stadium 20 km (12 miles) from Riyadh were sold out for the first match, between Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Teams from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are also taking part in the tournament, which ends on March 18.

Two players sent off

SYDNEY, March 2, (Reuters): Two players were sent off and another taken to hospital in a fiery Olympic soccer qualifying tournament, Oceania Group clash between Taiwan and Western Samoa here today.

Fighting broke out in the second half after Western Samoa goalkeeper Tavita Samania had been heavily tackled. Two Taiwan players ended on the ground, and Samania and Western Samoa full-back Malo Vaga were ordered off.

A few minutes later Taiwan midfielder Hwang was carried from the field after a tackle and was taken to hospital for X-rays to his neck.

UK soccer results

LONDON, March 2, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday.

English Division One	
Southampton 1 Newcastle 0	
Tottenham 0 Derby 1	
Division Two	
Bradford 0 Huddersfield 1	
English Division Three	
Blackpool 2 York 1	
Brentford 2 Preston 1	
Chesterfield 1 Bristol City 4	
Doncaster 0 Mansfield 2	
Grimsby v Rotherham postponed	
Sunderland 2 Fulham 0	
Walsall 2 Bury 1	
Wigan 4 Aldershot 0	
Division Four	
Bolton 2 Tranmere 0	
Crewe 0 Burnley 1	
Halifax 0 Cardiff 1	
Newport 0 Leyton Or. 0	
Rochdale 0 Wolver. 1	
Stockport 1 Scunthorpe 1	
Swansea 1 Colchester 0	
Wrexham 3 Cambridge 0	

Tivim Centre soccer tourney

TIVIM Centre, Kuwait will hold a seven-a-side football tournament on Thursday, March 25 at Sour Grounds in Kuwait City. Draw will be held at 6.30 am on the same day and tournament will commence at 7.00 am sharp. For more details please contact: D'Mello tele 2434634/2420439 and Almeida 4813892.

Bridge

MESSILIA ladies bridge game played on Saturday.

1st Sonia Banayan & Elly Lammerts
2nd Nahil Akel & Lollo Marthwaite
3rd Lyn Edwards & Helen Hughes

HILTON bridge results played on Sunday.

N/S
1st Ali Boukhris & Chiebi Jadaa
2nd Lollo Marthwaite & Sandra Turry
3rd Rima Al Foad & Farah.

E/W
1st E. El-Qattan & H. Al-Zaid
2nd Sadih Duma & Peter Fernandez
3rd Dora Materny & Hassan Mos-sad

SHERATON ladies bridge game played yesterday.

N/S
1st Sonia Banayan & Ramda Finan
2nd Jamila Akel & Juliette Masah-war
3rd Nahil Akel & Lollo Marthwaite

E/W
1st Rima Foad & Nicole Iskander
2nd Sandra Turry & Suzanne Cat-termoie
3rd Dayane Fulk & Mandy Clarke

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Tuesday.

N/S
1st Adly Tiah & Magdi Mestari
2nd Ignace Meouchi & Marcel Zan-ari
3rd Saad El Saied & Salah Galandar

E/W
1st Ahmed Heneidi & Stanislas Drex-ler
2nd Dr Shankra Reddy & Gregory Latala
3rd Dr Henryk Szal & Robert Stocker

GLASGOW RANGERS FACE A STERN TASK IN SECOND LEG

Steaua Bucharest win in European Cup quarterfinal

BUCHAREST, March 2, (Reuters): Romanian Army team Steaua Bucharest, spurred by a second minute goal from Victor Piturca, seized a 2-0 victory over Scotland's Glasgow Rangers in their European Cup quarterfinal first-leg clash today.

Steaua, who won the Champions' Cup in 1986, underlined their dominance with a second goal after 66 minutes by Stefan Iovan following a free kick.

The result left the Scottish champions, who are seeking their first European trophy since winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972, facing a stern task in the return leg in Glasgow on March 16.

Steaua, the Romanian first division leaders, might have built

an even greater advantage but for an impressive display by Rangers' goalkeeper, Chris Woods. He made three superb saves during a sustained first-half assault by the army side.

The Romanians went ahead from their first serious attack which Rangers failed to clear, and Piturca pounced on a loose ball to score from close range.

Free kick

Steaua's second strike came from a short free kick 25 metres out of Rangers' goal. George Hagi pushed the ball to right-back Iovan, who drove it home with the aid of a deflection off a Scottish defender.

Rangers had received a pre-match boost when top scorer Ally McCoist was declared fit to

play, only a week after a cartilage operation.

However, the Scots found attacking opportunities were rare as Steaua embarked on a relentless first-half onslaught.

In one five-minute burst, Woods turned a fiercely-driven free kick by Hagi over the bar and then touched over a well-struck shot from Nicolae Ungureanu. Soon afterwards he made another good save from Hagi.

Rangers midfielder Scott Nisbet and Ungureanu were booked after 38 minutes following an off-the-ball incident, while the Glasgow team's captain, Graham Roberts, was shown the yellow card for a foul on Hagi just before half-time.

Steaua continued to play the ball around the composure in the second half, although Rangers seemed to be coping with the attacks more effectively than before the interval.

Roberts and fellow defender Richard Gough strove hard to limit the army side's chances, but McCoist found himself in a lone striking role for most of the time.

Steaua captain Tudorel Stoica was booked midway through the half for tripping forward Iain Durrant.

Expected

Steaua coach Emmerich Jenci said: "I think we shall be able to come away from Glasgow with a 3-1 aggregate win."

"We expected a powerful counter from Rangers after the

first goal, but it did not come. "I am pleased with the win, but Steaua did not display the performance I expected. My team did not play full out and at times slowed down. We shall have to avoid this in Glasgow."

Marseille lead

Meanwhile, in Lecce, Italy, Jean-Pierre Papin gave Marseille a 1-0 lead over Rovaniemi Palloseura of Finland in their European Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinal first-leg match yesterday.

Apart from Papin's goal, nodded home off a right-wing cross from Alain Giresse, the match had few high points and the French team seemed content to settle back and contain the Finnish attacks.

Fifa to decide 1994 World Cup host on July 4

GENEVA, March 2, (Reuters): The International Football Federation (Fifa) will decide the host for the 1994 World Cup soccer finals on July 4 and not June 30 previously scheduled, Fifa said.

In a news release from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the executive committee met yesterday at the invitation of King Fahd, Fifa said that the change had been made to allow more time for the presentation of candidacies.

Vying

Brazil, Morocco and the United States are vying to stage the 1994 World Cup. A five-member Fifa team has

already inspected stadiums in Brazil and Morocco and a eight-day tour of US venues is scheduled for next week.

The Fifa Congress will be held in Zurich on July 1 and 2 as originally planned, Fifa said.

The executive committee, chaired by Fifa President Joao Havelange of Brazil, approved the recommendation on the medical committee and made the wearing of shin pads compulsory for all Fifa competitions including qualifying matches.

The Australian Soccer Federation was fined 10,000 Swiss francs (\$7,200) for contravening the rules governing advertising. No details were immediately available of the Australian offence.

Becker and Cash advance in champions cup

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 2, (UPI): Defending champion Boris Becker of West Germany and fourth-seeded Pat Cash of Australia each posted 6-3, 6-4 victories yesterday in the second round of the \$702,500 Newsweek Champions Cup.

Strongly

Becker, the No 3 seed ranked sixth in the world, finished strongly in each set to eliminate Tim Wilkison in 1 hour and 42 minutes. Cash, ranked seventh in the world, broke to the net at virtually every opportunity in defeating Frenchman Thierry Tulasne in 93 minutes.

In action involving other seeded players, No 11 Amos Mansdorf beat Derrick Rostagno of Los Angeles, 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-5). No 12 Eduardo Bengoechea defeated fellow Argentine Horacio De La Pena 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. No 13 Christo van Rensburg of South Africa downed Peru's Jaime Yzaga, 7-5, 6-3. No 15 Mikael Pernfors of Sweden eliminated Czechoslovakia's Tomas Smid, 7-5, 6-3.

Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, last year's runnerup, plays his first match today against Jim Brown. No 2 Miroslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia also sees his first action, taking on Richey Reneberg.

Becker, who won Wimbledon in 1985 and 1986, took his opening match of the tournament by

the same 6-3 6-4 score but had to struggle for the victory over left-handed American Tim Wilkison.

The top eight seeds received first round byes.

Becker, the defending champion, had more problems with his own serve than with his erratic opponent. The West German served nine double faults in the match.

The third seed's play was also affected as he became increasingly irritated when Wilkison pumped his fists to celebrate winning big points.

Becker fell behind 1-3 in the first set before Wilkison began missing shots and the West German took command.

Becker ran off five straight games and ended the first set with one of his four aces.

Breaks

After trading breaks at the start of the second set, Becker came up with a crucial service break in the seventh game and, holding that advantage, served out the set.

"It was not the greatest match of all time," Becker said. "It used to be if I couldn't serve I'd lose the match for sure," he added. "But that I've changed already."

Cash blanketed the net effectively in disposing of Tulasne. The defending Wimbledon champion attacked at virtually every opportunity against the baseliner, turning potential pass-



Cash

ing shots into winning volleys.

The Australian converted 64 per cent of his volleys at the net, winning 60 of 94 points. Cash, utilising a break each time, forged leads of 3-1 in the first set and 4-3 in the second. Tulasne had a chance to even the match at 5-5 in the second set with a break point, but Cash responded by winning three straight points for the victory.

In the third-round matches, tomorrow, Becker will face the winner of Wednesday's match between Van Rensburg and John Fitzgerald while Cash will meet Mark Woodforde of Australia.

The winner of the tournament, held at the Grand Champions Resort about 20 miles (30 km) east of Palm Springs, receives \$136,700. Sunday's final will be the best-of-five sets.

Anderson Boys lift football trophy

THE Anderson Boys won the coveted trophy of the Varca Sporting Centre at the Al Soor grounds on Feb 25, when they defeated Konkani-7 in the finals of the fifth one-day seven-a-side football tournament.

Anderson Boys of the Incredible IX found the net 5 minutes from the start when their Antao Rogtao toed the ball into the nets of Konkani-7 catching their custodian unaware. Within three minutes James Figueira of the Konkani-7 of the Goa Marnons equalised the score.

Attacks

Till half time the score was one each, and the match was superb football, both the teams making abortive attacks at each other's goal but without results.

In the second half Anderson Boys came in with new vigour and that made Javed shoot their second goal within 7 minutes. With the score 2-1 Anderson Boys dashed the hopes of the Konkani-7 when their Javed made the score 3-1. With the score 3-1 Konkani-7 tried to wrestle the supremacy from their opponents but to no avail.

Allan Anderson of Scotland was the chief guest for the finals. Anderson in his address praised the boys for their performance



Allan Anderson with the winners and officials.

and their love for the game.

James Gomes vice president of the Varca Sporting Centre welcomed the guests and thanked all the seventeen participating teams for their cooperation.

The Indian Football Referees Association provided the referees for the tournament.

Teddy Pinto of the Anderson Boys was awarded the best player of the tournament trophy.

Teams

ANDERSON BOYS: John Pereira, Antao Rogtao, Lineo Fernandes, Teddy Pinto, Valerian D'Souza, Joaquim Fernandes, Javed, Franky Rogtao, Dominic Pereira and Remy Pereira.

KONKANI-7: Xavier Lobo, Honorato Gomes, Antony Correia, Agnelo Correia, Peter

Ahmadi kart racing team for Dubai

AHMADI Kart Racing, sponsored by Kuwait Airways, is on its way to Dubai for the Swaidan Trading-Goodyear International grand prix.

This race which is to be held today and tomorrow at the Jebel Ali race track in Dubai, is one of the most prestigious kart races in the Middle East. The Kuwait Airways drivers will be competing in the Gulf Team Championship. This championship, being a very popular race on the kart circuit, is expected to draw over 40 drivers, representing almost every Gulf country.

Although the Kuwait Airways team has never travelled to another country before, they are very optimistic about their chances of winning. Kuwait held its International Kart Race last week, and of the top six finishing positions, four of them were Kuwait drivers.

Eric Andrews said he is looking forward to the experience of competing with so many drivers, and such a diverse field of competitors. "I think it will be exciting and a good day regardless of how we finish."

Paul Gandy feels the only problems the Kuwait Airways drivers face are the inexperience of driving as a team, and the big difference in the Dubai track from their own track in Kuwait.

The four drivers travelling to Dubai are Eric Andrews, Jeff Butt, Paul Gandy and Simon Lloyd. The team is being accompanied by over 20 enthusiastic fans. The drivers hope that they do well for the fans, and expressed gratitude to Kuwait Airways for making this trip possible.

Romanian bobsled team coach defects

CALGARY, March 2, (Reuters): The defector at the Calgary Winter Olympics was identified by police sources today as the coach of the Romanian bobsled team.

The man, Dumitru Focscenau, has asked for political asylum and been taken into protective custody, police and Olympics sources said.

The man refused to board a bus taking the 22-member team to the Calgary airport and told police he wanted to defect, they said.

Police reported a defection yesterday, the first of the Calgary Olympics, but police superintendent Len Esler refused to identify the defector "for his safety and the safety of his family."

Esler said the man approached two police officers at the athletes' village at the University of Calgary on Monday evening and requested political asylum. He was taken to a police station where immigration officers placed him in protective custody.

Earlier, a television station identified the defector as Horia Ilyescu, coach of Romania's luge team. CFNC-TV said he had a wife and 10-year-old twins in Bucharest.

The Romanian embassy in Ottawa refused comment.

Wilf Lindner, manager of the Calgary immigration centre, said yesterday the defector had not yet formally applied for refugee status and would be given two or three days, "to reflect on his position without undue pressure."

He would be allowed to stay in Canada only after a medical examination, a security check of his background and an immigration department hearing, Lindner said.

He said the man could still decide to return to his homeland. "His refugee status is to be decided at a later date," Lindner said. "All decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. We have his request to remain in Canada, nothing else."

Lindner said no other Olympic-related requests to remain in Canada had been received by the Calgary office. But during the first week of the Games, three Romanian speed skaters and their coach abruptly flew home amid a flurry of speculation they were planning to defect.

The Calgary Winter Olympics ended on Sunday.

Maleeva and Hanika score straight set victories

Sukova ousts Mochizuki in first round

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 2, (Reuters): Second seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia faltered slightly in the second set before ousting American Tina Mochizuki 6-2 6-3 in the first round of the \$200,000 US Women's Hardcourt championships yesterday.

Third-seeded American Lori McNeil, who on Sunday won the \$100,000 Oklahoma tournament, crushed Isabelle Demongeot of France 6-1 6-1 in a first round match that lasted just 47 minutes.

Winds

Sukova, playing with winds gusting up to 40 kilometres per hour, easily won the first set 6-2 but fell behind 0-3 in the second as Mochizuki picked up the level of her game.

Sukova, ranked seventh in the world, responded to the challenge by running off the next six games to advance to the second round.

"I think the best part of my game was that I kept fighting, Sukova said. "I kept my patience because it is so hard to do that in the wind. I need to be more con-



Sukova

istent and just basically play better and make fewer mistakes."

A pair of Soviet seeds also won first round matches.

Fifth seed Natalia Zvereva rallied from 1-5 down in the first set to beat American Gretchen Magers 7-5 6-3. The 16-year-old up-and-coming star recovered from the early deficit by taking the next eight games.

Zvereva's countrywoman Larisa Savchenko, seeded eighth, survived a shaky second set to oust American Camille

Benjamin 6-1 5-7 6-0.

In Wichita, Kansas, top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria and third seed Sylvia Hanika of West Germany escaped an apparent seeding jinx at the \$100,000 Kansas tournament with straight set first round victories yesterday.

Maleeva rolled to a 6-2 6-2 triumph over Iva Budarova of Czechoslovakia and Hanika was a 6-1 6-4 winner over 17-year-old Emmanuelle Derly of France.

On Monday four of five seeds scheduled to play failed to get past the first round.

Struggle

Sixth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia also won yesterday but had to struggle to notch a 6-4 7-5 victory over Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand.

"I don't like to play lefthanders because it's hard to return their serve," said the 19-year-old Novotna.

"That's funny, because last year I reached the quarterfinals here and I was trying to beat the seeded players. Now they're trying to beat me."

The sign of good taste



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